

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## INSIDE



### Le Marj

Managed by civic-oriented beauty expert Eydie Uy, Le Marj Beauty Salon has become one of the oldest local companies in its line of business, surviving for almost two decades now.

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### State Funeral

With the storied riderless horse symbolizing the fallen president, Ronald Reagan's casket rolled on a century-old caisson to the Capitol on Wednesday for final tributes from high officials and common Americans in the first presidential state funeral in three decades.

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### Sabotage

Saboteurs blew up a key northern oil pipeline Wednesday, forcing a 10 percent cut on the national power grid as demand for electricity rises with the advent of Iraq's broiling summer heat.

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### THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente poses with other members of the steering committee for the 60th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian after a meeting held yesterday at the Governor's Office. Preparations for the commemoration are becoming more feverish, with the event set to kick off tomorrow with Camp Show, a USO-style show at American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

SHAN SEMAN

## CUC considering power barge

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

As part of efforts to solve the power woes on Saipan, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Herman P. Sablan instructed the management yesterday to explore the possible entry of a power barge that could supply the island

with power for two to three years.

Sablan said this has to take place while the CUC's main power plant in Lower Base is being privatized.

"If we award it [privatization] this year, it would take up to three years conditioning. So look at two to three years operations of barge power plants as back up," he told the management during yesterday's board meeting.

The chairman said a power barge could provide up to 20 percent power reserve.

"It's just a temporary measure. So take a look at having a contract for barge power plant," Sablan said.

The CUC last week said that there is no power reserve right now on island, which means that any engine breakdown would immediately result in power outages.

At present, about three of the eight

engines in CUC's power plant I in Lower Base are down. The remaining engines are working, but they are already overdue for an overhaul.

This developed as the utility firm is pushing for the immediate privatization of the PP1 and a smaller, adjacent power plant II in Lower Base.

CUC is currently working with a

See CUC on Page 8

## Education of CUC's Torres scrutinized—again

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

Once again, the educational background of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Joe Torres is being investigated to see if he is indeed qualified to stay on the board.

After passing the scrutiny of the Attorney General's Office in October last year, Torres is being investigated now on the same issue by the Senate, the body that confirmed his appointment to his position early on.

"It's a joke. They are investigating their own action," said Torres in an interview.

In a June 10 letter to CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan, Sen. Paterno S. Hocog, chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said that no less than Senate President Joaquin S. Adriano pushed for the probe.

"Sen. Adriano...has requested my

committee to investigate the educational background of CUC board member Joseph T. Torres," Hocog told Sablan. "However, before I can initiate any investigative process, I kindly request that you provide me information relative to [Torres]' educational background."

See EDUCATION on Page 8

## Lifting of zoning suspension OK'd

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a bill that would lift the suspension of zoning on Saipan, despite a reported opinion by the Attorney General's Office advising against it.

The AGO, according to the delegation also questioned the body's authority over the matter.

"We approved the zoning bill that lifted [sic] the suspension of the Zoning Act. We went on record expressing the members' concerns. We didn't acknowledge the AG's opinion," delegation chairman

See LIFTING on Page 8

## Hotel to pour \$500K into new water system

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

As part of efforts to preserve the pristine quality of Saipan's beaches, Hotel Nikko Saipan disclosed plans to spend about \$500,000 for the construction of a new reverse osmosis plant and im-

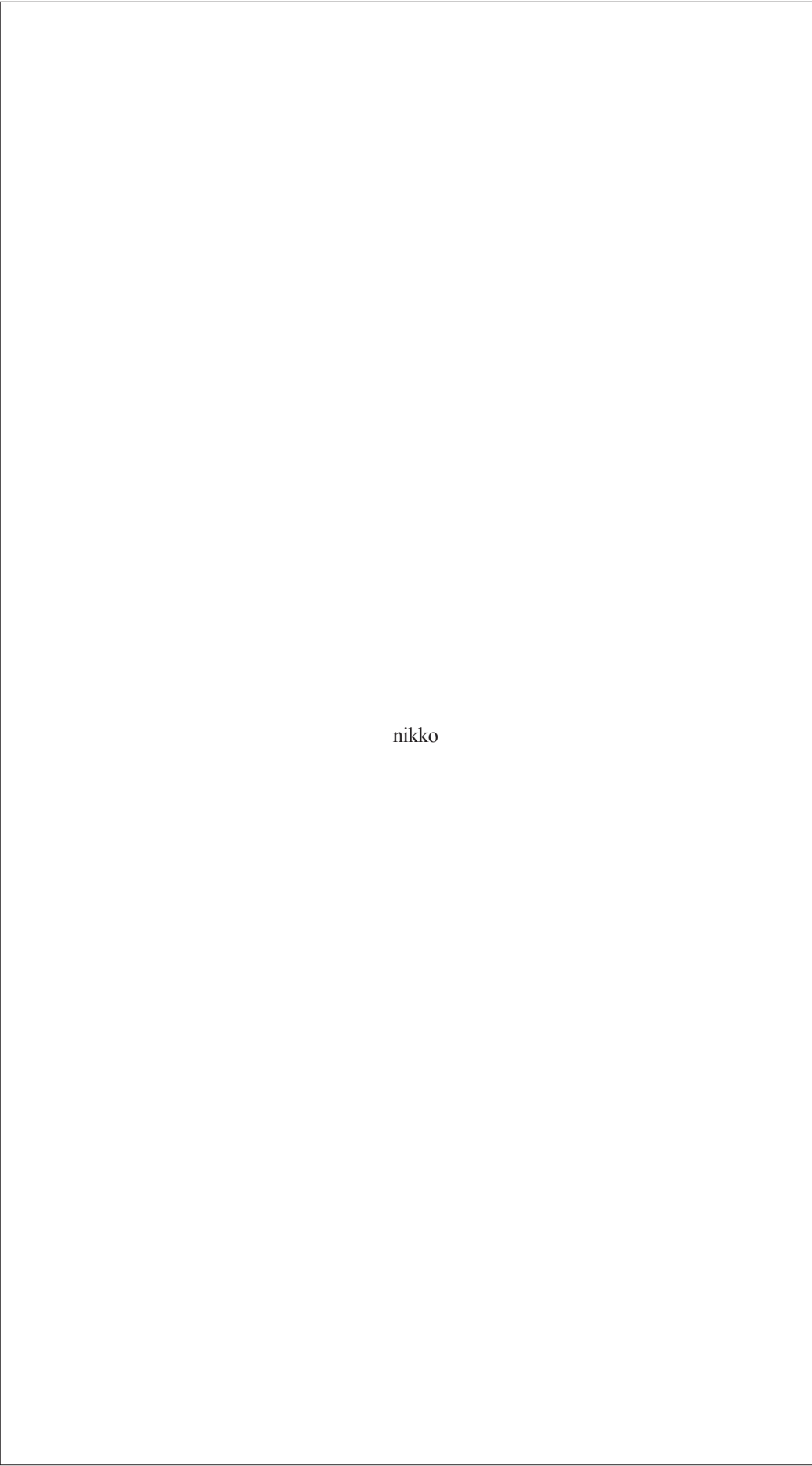


provement of the hotel's water treatment and disposal system.

Nikko vice president Hideo Nishigori said the project is being undertaken under the direction

See HOTEL on Page 8

# Local



nikko



diabetes  
+green

cars unlimited

cb cruz

aa cellular

mcdo

# Govt lawyer files harassment complaint vs chief prosecutor

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

An attorney formerly working for the Attorney General's Office has complained of sexual harassment against the CNMI's chief prosecutor, David Hutton.

The female attorney, whose name is being withheld, has filed the complaint with the Office of Personnel Management.

OPM director Juan I. Tenorio said yesterday that the complaint is still being investigated.

"We are investigating the allegation and we are not done," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said he tasked Frank Gibson, the chief investigator for the CNMI's Equal Employment Opportunity program, to conduct the probe. He added that the findings of the investigation might be completed by Tuesday.

Tenorio refused to comment when asked for details about

the allegation that became the basis for the sexual harassment complaint, saying that it is "premature to discuss this because it's still under investigation."

Hutton refused to comment on the complaint. He said, however, that the female attorney last worked for the AGO on May 28. He refused to comment if the woman resigned or was terminated. The attorney had worked under Hutton, who heads the AGO's Criminal Division.

Hutton added that the attorney had transferred to the AGO's Civil Division as early as mid-April.

AG Pamela Brown gave terse comments when asked about the issue, saying that sexual harassment cases should be dealt with confidentiality, not one that should be discussed with the press.

"Because of the nature of [this issue], I can't confirm nor deny," Brown said.



## ASVAB exams set

Individuals 17-34 years of age who want to join the U.S. Army are urged to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery examinations that will be held June 18-19 at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

The June 18 exam will be held at 4pm, while the June 19 exam will be at noon.

Interested individuals must bring a picture I.D. to process.

If there are any questions, call collect (671) 477-7666 and ask for SFC Abadam (cell 671-687-3540) or Sgt Benavente (cell 671-687-3660).

## Garage sale tomorrow

A fundraising garage sale will be held tomorrow, Saturday, June 11, on Beach Road, across MHS beginning at 6am. Please come.

## Beach Road closed Thursday next week

The Department of Public Safety would like to inform the general public that Beach Road Quarter Master by the WWII Tank to the American Memorial Park, as well as all the intersections connecting to the mentioned strip of highway will be closed on June 15, 2004 from 2pm to 5:30pm.

The public is asked to use alternate routes during these hours.

For more information, contact Traffic POI Rose T. Ada-Hocog or Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar or Sgt. Joseph Flores at 664-9084/5.

## MHS to issue report cards, yearbooks

This is to inform parents and legal guardians of students attending Marianas High School that report cards and yearbooks will be distributed on Thursday, June 10, from 8am to 3pm at the main office.

## DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All community public water systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers, as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing the reports and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

## Group offers free health screening

The United Filipino Organization and the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on Saipan disclosed launching a health-screening program as part of efforts to curb the rising incidence of diabetes among Filipinos in the CNMI.

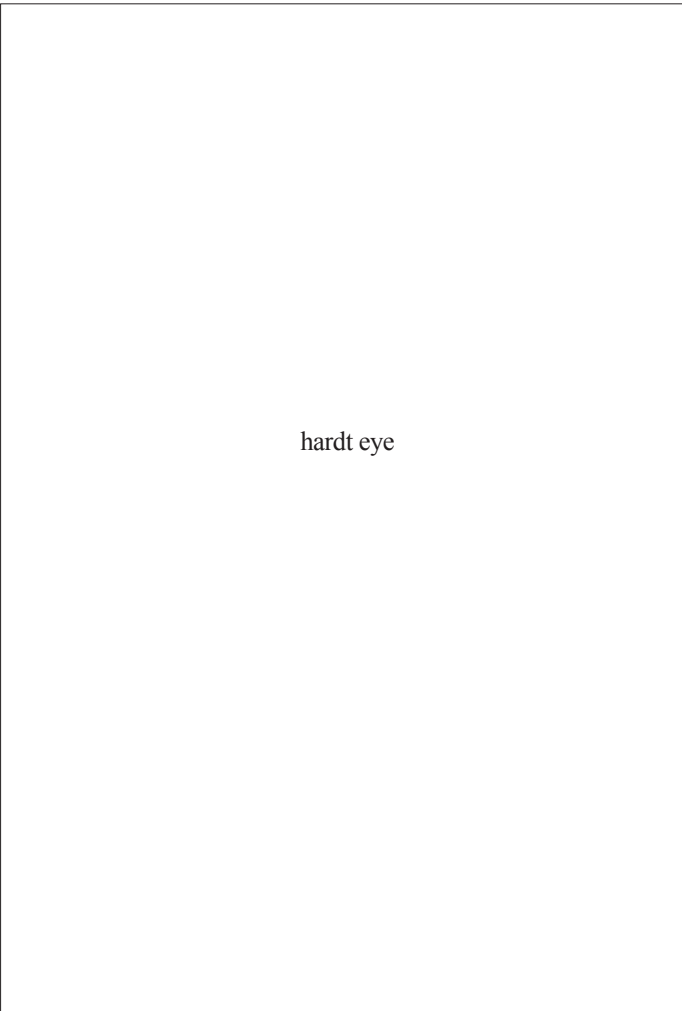
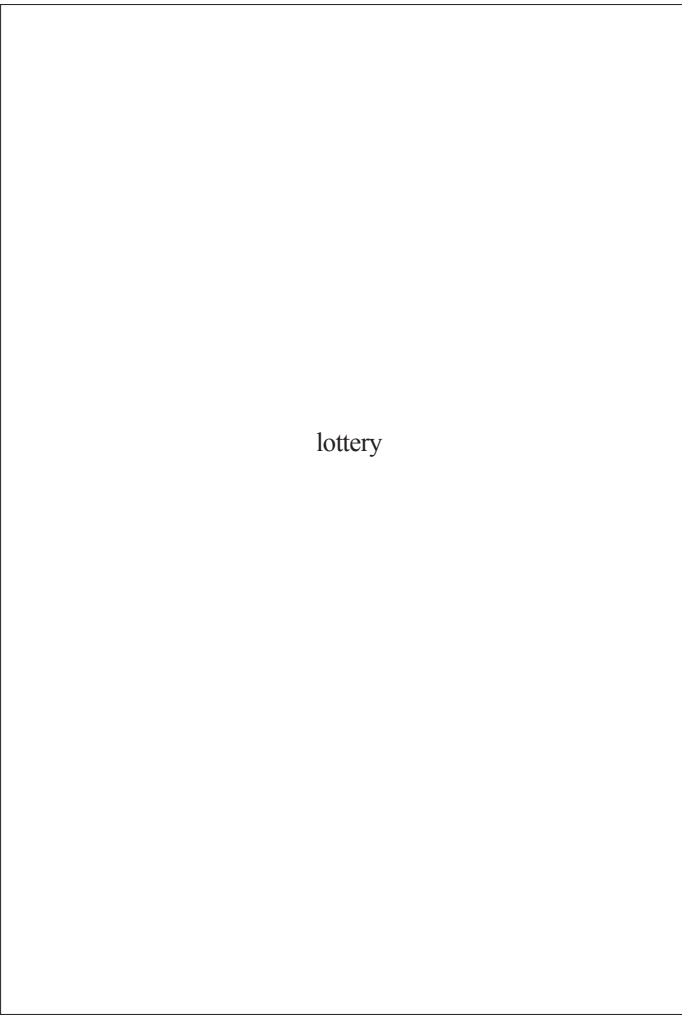
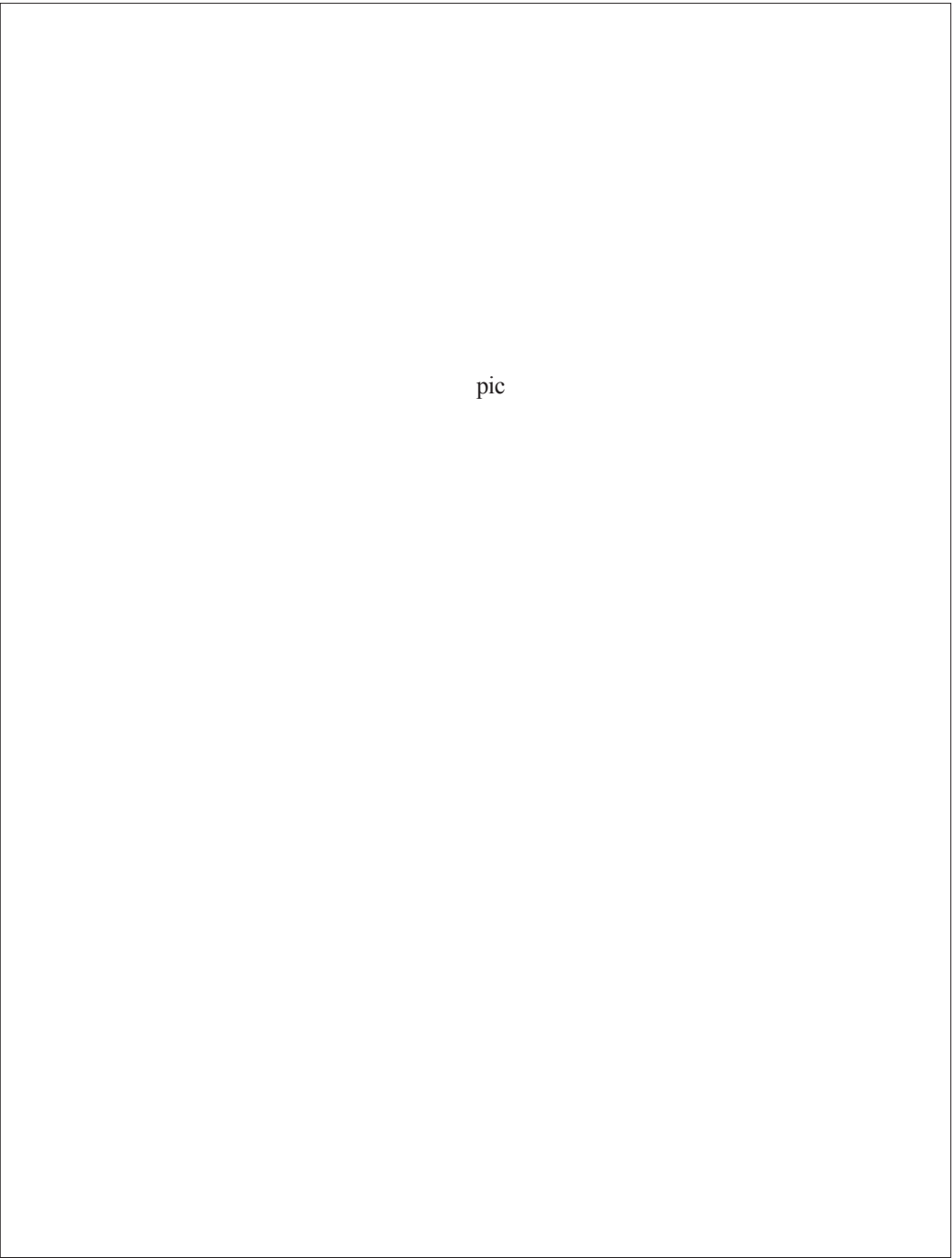
UFO president Nel Atalig said the health-screening project would involve free glucose count and blood pressure tests.

Volunteers from the Commonwealth Health Center would perform the tests, she said.

Atalig said the event would be regularly conducted from 9am to 12 noon every last Sunday of the month.

The project was to kick off last Sunday at the Nauru Building in Susupe, where the Philippine consulate offices are housed. (John Ravelo)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE JAN OF MAY 04, 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Saipan-Honolulu					Honolulu-Saipan				
6601	7:00am	4:00pm	SA		6601	7:00am	4:00pm	SA	
6602	4:00pm	4:00pm	10:40P		6602	4:00pm	4:00pm	10:40P	
6603	4:00pm	4:00pm	SA		6603	4:00pm	4:00pm	SA	
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

## Twisting American values

“Everything changed after 9/11” became, in 2001, the slogan that justified new approaches to national security, including curtailment of civil liberties. Nearly three years later, we learn that even the use of torture was being justified when it came to terror suspects. The Bush administration’s Justice Department turned the Constitution on its head by telling the White House in an August 2002 memo—written nearly a year after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—not only that torture “may be justified” but that laws against torture “may be unconstitutional if applied to interrogations” in the U.S. war on terror.

Those are the words of out-of-control government servants willing to discard the most fundamental values of this nation. But the declaration became the basis for a secret draft report in March 2003 by Pentagon lawyers to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. That report said the president’s “inherent constitutional authority to manage a military campaign” meant prohibitions on torture did not apply.

It is not known if the language of the draft survived in a final report, and Pentagon officials said the document had no effect on revised interrogation procedures for Guantanamo Bay inmates issued in April 2003. But the memo’s willingness to discard international and domestic laws adds strength to questions about the interrogations of prisoners in Afghanistan, Iraq and the U.S. facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A 2001 memo from Rumsfeld’s office, for instance, said intelligence officers should “take the gloves off” when interrogating the so-called American Talib, John Walker Lindh.

“A few bad apples” was the dismissive phrase used by the White House after photos of brutality by U.S. forces in Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison leaked out. The fact that there were numerous soldiers, including alleged Army intelligence officers, in some of the pictures immediately chipped at that claim. New reports of abuse or torture of inmates in Afghanistan rolled in. Last month, the Pentagon said 32 inmates had died in U.S. custody in Iraq and five in Afghanistan; so far, eight of the deaths appear to have been homicides.

Congress must determine how far up the chain of command the abuse stretched and who authorized or tolerated it. The torture memo, all drafts of the report to Rumsfeld and the names of those who received them should be made public. Attorney General John Ashcroft refused such a request Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The effort shouldn’t stop there.

In 1994, the U.S. ratified the international Convention Against Torture, which states there are “no exceptional circumstances whatsoever” to justify torture. Torture is morally wrong and practically ineffective. This was especially true at Abu Ghraib, where most detainees were not suspected terrorists. Mistreatment of inmates invites retaliation against captured U.S. soldiers, one reason many uniformed Pentagon lawyers opposed the memo’s conclusions.

The administration should open its files and explain its interrogation procedures. Anything less reinforces the image of a brutal nation unfettered by the rule of law.

2004, Los Angeles Times



## The power behind the throne, or Mr. Potato Head

By ROB LONG

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Last month, after taking two promising television pilots to New York for “up fronts”—the frenzied week in which the television networks set their fall schedules—and returning home with neither show ordered, I decided to do the smart thing and assess my career options.

The trouble is, I don’t really have any. I’ve been a television writer for 14 years—it’s really the only job I ever had—and I’m not much of a catch, employee-wise.

I mean, where, exactly, are they hiring guys who need two assistants, a free lunch and unlimited tiny bottles of Evian water and who respond to all suggestions and criticisms with a cranky, defensive and uncooperative attitude? Oh, and I’m going to need a lot of money.

Nowhere, is where. But because I’m a writer, I’m willing to compromise a little for the sake of doing something interesting, which is why I recently paged through the want ads in the Economist looking for a new direction for the second act of my life.

The United Nations, the magazine said, is looking for a Chief of its Social Development Division in Latin America, which is a position that I’m considering. According to the job description, there’s a lot of “supervision” and “coordination,” which I can do pretty well, and some “preparation of relevant substantive documentation,” which sounds like something you learn on the job anyway. It’s not really clear what the chief is actually supposed to do, but I guess I should expect that kind of mission vagueness from the United Nations.

The Central Intelligence Agency is in the market for a new Director of Operations, Clandestine Service. No, really, it’s in the Economist, the May 15 issue, right there on Page 19.

According to the ad, the CIA is looking for candidates with “superior intellect, ingenuity and courage.” (Check.) And the ability to face “complex, unstructured circumstances.” (You try pilot season!)

It’s especially interested in people who can make “independent decisions that may significantly affect outcomes.” This might be the most promising and natural career transition ever, and I’m pretty sure I can count on an offer, if I make it through the “medical and psychological exam, a polygraph interview and an extensive background investigation.”

Come to think of it, a better fit might be the Deputy Director General for Research for the International Potato Center. First, it’s based in Lima, Peru, which would put me for once on the right side of a real-estate swap. Also, I like potatoes.

The IPC seeks to reduce poverty and malnutrition and environmental degradation by increasing the use of “potato, sweet

potato, and other roots and tubers,” which is OK, I guess. But I keep thinking: “So many carbs? Is that really something we should be encouraging?” So I like to think that I’m going to bring some “out of the box” thinking to the International Potato Center, although I’m not going to stress that in the interview, which I expect to be arranged any day now.

But the United Nations, the CIA and the potato place are all a little down market, if you know what I mean. I close my eyes and, no matter how hard I try, I still see myself crammed into coach, battered briefcase on my lap, wearing an old gray suit and, if I take the potato job, an extra 40 pounds.

But the Economist comes to my rescue. In the April 3 issue, on Page 19, the queen of England is advertising for an Assistant Private Secretary. Perfect.

“The responsibilities of the Assistant Private Secretary include planning and organizing The Queen’s official programme,” goes the ad, and yes, they really do capitalize the word “the.” The Secretary—whoops, sorry, I mean the Assistant Private Secretary (we’ll get into billing later)—is also tasked with “working with Government departments and devolved administrations,” which, let’s be honest, sounds a lot like working at Disney.

The snag here is one I’m going to chalk up to snobbery: They’re looking for someone with “a well-developed knowledge of the U.K., the constitution and the British media.” My plan is to address this in the interview: I’m going to dazzle The Queen with my familiarity with all 12 episodes of “The Office,” compliment her on her sturdy shoes and saunter off, breezily telling her that I’m late for a country house weekend.

The rest of the job description is practically a prose description of me: “An outstanding candidate is required with excellent judgment” (me), “conceptual thinking and strategic planning ability” (me, me), good communication skills and “an ability to absorb and disseminate a large volume of information” (ever try to pitch a one-hour single-camera dramedy told in a multi-perspective format?).

And finally, they wrap it up by requiring that the candidate have “strong cultural sensitivity” and be a “team player with good interpersonal skills,” to which I respond: Hello! I’m a show runner!

So it looks as if I’m going to be facing some pretty tough choices.

Like most of us, I guess, I’ve always wanted to work with The Queen on a project, but on the other hand, I still like the idea of living in Lima, working with tubers.

Either way, it’s nice to know I have options.

Long, a contributing editor to National Review, was an executive producer of “Cheers.”

## Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

## Same tired, old speeches

For nearly three decades now, we've heard tired speeches about (addressing) water shortages here. We're far off the mark from resolution because we're stuck in the mud of address.

The speeches are as empty as the water pipes emplaced in Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, San Vicente and Chalan Kanoa Villages.

Then came a new form of government solution: establishment of a water task force to address water problems island-wide. CUC pitched in by planning to retain a consultant to study more water problems we already know. It's a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The basic premise is: islands throughout the Pacific have small water lenses or aquifers. Island communities suffer from the lack of water in prolonged drought season. It means far less water in aquifers to meet the growing demands of the community. But we've also employed Chamorro Logic by drilling more water wells around the same source only to pump brackish water during the dry season.

The obvious dilemma is the continuing expansion of this community. It needs more water to feed new residential developments, islandwide. The seeming answer is to proceed with desalination of salt water. Otherwise, we may have to revert to building more outside toilets to mitigate the lack of water.

Gentlemen, please spare us the same tired old intramural speeches that are as empty as the pipes in the villages, speeches that have been regurgitated for nearly 30 years.

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**  
Koblerville

## A response to Senator Reyes

Let me respond to Sen. Pete P. Reyes in the same venue in which he made his remarks (in the June 8 issue of this paper). Senator Reyes was unhappy that I did not consult with him prior to my voicing an opinion in my column, On My Mind (found on the web and in this paper's Sunday edition), about his reaction to the governor's veto of three of Senator Reyes' bills. The senator claimed that the vetoes were a personal reaction by the governor, and I disagreed.

Senator, I do not own a TV set. I get my information mainly from reading the two local papers. I often do call parties for information related to subjects I write about, and often obtain copies of, and read, related documents as well.

I did not do so in this case because, to the best of my recollection, in all the coverage given your unhappiness with the governor's vetoes, not once was any substantive argument included about the issues regarding Senate Bill 14-11, Senate Draft 1, which concerned DNA testing in paternity suits. There was no clue that the governor's reasoning was in error, and that your objections did, indeed, have factual grounds.

I know you are articulate, and do not hesitate to voice your opinion. Since I found no explanation of your position in the papers I made the assumption that, therefore, there were no real grounds for the position you were taking on this bill.

The other two bills that were vetoed—one, proposing to abolish celebration of President's Day so as to observe Martin Luther King day, and the other proposing to restrict Marianas Visitors Authority's hiring of nonresident workers—are both more a matter of opinion than a matter of fact, and there did not seem a need for further clarification.

I realize that there is a risk in depending on what the newspapers report and what they don't, on what approach they take. But I simply don't have the resources to verify every piece of newspaper-provided data that I use.

On the bright side, at least now, with your detailed explanation of why SB 14-11 should not have been vetoed, we may all understand what the real issue is. Indeed, perhaps it will encourage legislators to override the veto of this bill. It's a pity the explanation wasn't provided sooner.

Senator, I meant no disrespect. Our relationship has been a respectful one, and I hope it continues that way.

**Ruth L. Tighe**  
Tanapag, Saipan

## Why Reagan is a legend

If the Commonwealth had to pick a hero, Ronald Reagan would be a good choice. After all, it was President Reagan who conferred U.S. citizenship on the island folks, an act that has been followed by a gravy train of sweet moolah that puts the financial sucrose in the term Uncle Sugar.

Of course, if you go anywhere near the English-language media, they have soured the sweetness of Reagan's dignified stature by grinding in into mush with the millstones of Posthumous Saturation Coverage. Among all the romp in the pomp, though, I've gotten a lot of email questions from foreign readers, many of them workers or managers on Saipan, who are trying to gauge the American psyche on this matter. Namely, this: "What's the deal with Ronald Reagan? Why was he so popular?"

Well, that's a fair question. Let me see if I can cook up a fair answer.

You can't separate a man from his times, and Reagan secured the presidency in really bleak times for the United States. Not bleak as in crisis of Great Depression or WWII proportions, but bleak as in a vague and all encompassing despair, like a wet blanket had settled over the nation and was slowly smothering everyone's hopes. President Jimmy Carter just wasn't hitting the right buttons there in the Oval Office.

Inflation was roaring out of control, and I remember well those double-digit interest rates and the obscene, wealth-depleting costs of my parents' mortgage and car payments as they sweat the bills each month.

A gas crisis hit, and was countered with total incompetence.

And on the geopolitical stage, a handful of rag-tag Iranian yahoos holding U.S. hostages managed to geld Uncle Sam, while Carter looked like a deer frozen in headlights.

No disrespect intended to Mr. Carter, since he is a man of great intelligence and character. He just had lousy luck in Washington. And he had no knack for economics.

Still, lousy luck is, well, lousy, and economics is mighty unforgiving of messing up, and any way you looked at it back then, U.S.

## Examining the local mom-and-pop phenomenon

**Q** •Hafa Adai! I look forward to reading your column everyday and one thing for sure, you are truly impartial and that I surely appreciate. I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you and hopefully will be able to see you address one or two in your column.

**A** good number of mom-and-pop stores are operating businesses in small spaces with very limited merchandise and obviously run and managed daily by family members or attendants who could barely communicate in English. It just makes me wonder; how and in what ways do such businesses contribute to the CNMI economy. Are they simply operating such businesses as a front just so they can continue residing in the CNMI? I am sure that their income verse their living expenses is a big negative. Or are they reporting their business gross income?

Certainly, I am pleased to hear of your great interest—like many others—in my Q & A column. My purpose for this column is to enhance public awareness on issues of common interest in the community. It's my goal is to build a strong enough pressure from a well-informed public to compel the policymakers to develop and follow a socio-economic development plan that charts a successful development path for the people of the CNMI.

Let me begin my answer to your question by highlighting the socio-economic significance of small businesses, the so-called "mom-and-pop enterprises." This type of small business is primarily operated by the owner and his/her family members. Small businesses employ almost 60 percent of America's workers, contribute 50 percent of sales and account for half of private sector output. According to published government data, small and family owned businesses represented 98 percent of all U.S. employers, generated the third-largest economy in the world and contributed 50 percent of the gross domestic product in year 2000. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small firms made up nearly 90 percent of all exporters and produced one-fifth of the known export value in 2001. For that matter no national political leader can afford to ignore policies aimed at addressing the issues concerning mom-and-pop enterprises. Thus, invariably every federal administration has declared policies to improve the economic security of small businesses, provide them help to meet challenges by improving access to capital, ease the tax burden, expand the opportunity of access to new markets, make technology and information work for small businesses and help them in implementing policies that value families. However, development of specific policies addressing issues of small businesses by our lo-

By **ED STEPHENS**

*Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"*



policy—economic, military, whatever—was an utter disaster. Want to understand Reagan's popularity? You have to understand this first. It's a context thing.

And then Ronald Reagan appeared and he turned things around. The smothering blanket was lifted. The sun came out. Things got better. That's what happened. The details don't matter.

Meanwhile, consider that TV is the center of life in the USA, where the average American now watches 5.3 hours per day (yes, per DAY) of television. Reagan wasn't the first TV president, but he was the best. He was telegenic. He was poised. He had an obvious sense of humor. He was dignified, but not stuffy, not cocky, not glib, not pompous. He seemed bigger than the title of President, not the other way around.

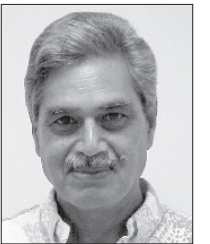
He seemed bigger than life, really, which is why so many people were so shaken a few days ago when they found that he wasn't.

Personally, there were some Reagan policies that I did not mesh with. Not everyone in his administration was on my warm-and-fuzzy list. But, so what? He was still a great among greats. In fact, in contemplating the man's legacy, perhaps the best reflection on him is who his shrill and vocal enemies are. If screeching neurotics, child molesters, and welfare queens go apoplectic at the mention of his name...well....that puts points in Reagan's favor right there.

Ronald Reagan is an American legend, who was legendarily good to the people of the Commonwealth, too.

By **MOHAMMAD ASHRAF, PH.D.**

*Ashraf is an International Resource Economist. He is solely responsible for the views expressed in this column and doesn't represent the views of Saipan Tribune. His email address is ashmdr@hotmail.com*



cal government may yet be in its infancy.

Further, I will mention some specific steps taken under the Clinton administration where the Small Business Administration doubled its loan volume to small businesses in three years. With no drop in loans to other business owners, the number of guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses was quadrupled. The 1993 Economic Plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief, helping them to keep money needed for growth. Also, targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced record keeping requirements, raised the small business expense limit for equipment by 75 percent and extended the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, reduced the burden of regulatory enforcement, overhauled export controls, and made it easier for small firms to do business with the federal government during the same time.

Similar policies such as tax write-offs for small businesses recently enacted by the Minimum Wage Increase Act, regulatory relief and reduction in paperwork requirements, easier access to needed capital, provision of health care insurance and retirement savings plans for employers and employees are continuing under the current administration of President Bush.

Why are mom-and-pop or family businesses more appreciated by the community, compared with the bigger chain store businesses? The reasons include the effectiveness of family teams, positive customer perceptions of family ownership, willingness of family members to sacrifice for their enterprise, trust among family members, commitment to integrity and reputation, family support and more. Family businesses enable people to work hard for something more important than either opportunity or ego and that's family reputation.

Among the economic benefits of these businesses, studies show that the externally owned firms tend to purchase products from distant suppliers and channel profits to distant owners in other regions, thus generating smaller local multiplier effects than homegrown businesses. The addition of one new small firm results in an overall

See **EXAMINING** on Page 8

# Camp Show to recreate lighter side of life during war

Camp shows helped many military men and women ease heartache and pain, loss and confusion during and following World War II. As part of the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian, a vibrant camp show will entertain veterans, friends, families, and community members on June 12 and 13. The show will start at 7pm each evening in the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The show is free.

The Camp Show will recreate the setting and entertainment offered through the United Services Organization

(USO) sixty years ago. Produced by Saipan-based Friends of the Arts, the Camp Show will provide a trip down memory lane with an authentic review of comedy, music, and dance. Comedy routines made famous by popular comedians of the day will be “punctuated” by the vocal stylings reminiscent of Danny Kaye, the Andrews Sisters, and more. Music and comedy will combine in a hilarious version of “Honey Bun” and other sketches from the musical South Pacific. The swing era will come to life and the audience will be treated to dynamic cultural performances by

popular local dance groups.

No camp show would be complete without beautiful women, and the CNMI’s own beauty queens will model the fashions of the day. As a special treat, world renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky will provide a spirited tribute to veterans with his special arrangement of patriotic hymns, marches, and other period songs.

The Camp Show will provide an opportunity for veterans, local residents, and visitors to relive, in a small way, the lighter side of the era. Be sure to be there.

## EDUCATION

From Page 1

Hocog said the documents Torres submitted just before his confirmation contained only his resume, and did not include copies of his AA degree in either Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration, or in Body and Fender.

Hocog asked Sablan to provide the documents within seven working days.

In his letter to Torres yesterday, Sablan asked his colleague to comply with the Senate order.

“To once and for all put this issue to rest, I am kindly requesting your cooperation to provide the document requested,” Sablan said.

For his part, Torres said he wonders why the issue has been revived at this time. “What are they up to? If they want to fire me, they can be honest; say it. No need to do an investigation,” he said.

He said that, as an appointee, he went through the whole process, including a hearing conducted by the Senate panel.

“It’s a question of their work. Did they do their work when they confirmed me?” he asked.

Torres said he had been willing to provide the needed information as re-

quested by the AGO last year, which, he said, failed to come up with a written report after looking into his credentials.

“I gave my consent for investigation... I asked them to put it down in writing, but I was told that the AG didn’t want to put it down in writing,” he said.

Sources said the latest move on Torres, an outspoken member of the CUC board, is related to the upcoming annual board election. The election is usually held in June but the board’s majority moved it to July this year.

“He [Torres] is seen as a real threat, a constant pain that somehow spoils their plan,” said a source.

Sources said the upcoming election would be between the current chairman, Sablan, and “whoever Torres would be supporting.”

Sablan’s only “remaining ally” on the board is said to be his vice chairman, Frank Guerrero.

The CUC board is composed of members Rufina Miles, Velma Ann Palacios, Allen Perez, and Torres.

Last year, Torres’ education background was probed by the AGO’s Investigative Unit following a conflict over another board member’s appoint-

ment, Jack Borja of Tinian.

Borja, who had been confirmed by the Senate, was ordered terminated from the board by the governor on June 12, 2003 due to a lack of an Associate of Arts degree, a requirement for all CUC board members.

Torres had accused some of his colleagues as behind the AGO investigation.

When Borja was terminated, he had accused Guerrero of masterminding his ouster.

In his declaration, Torres had said that he fully satisfies the law on the educational requirement.

Torres said he holds two Associate of Arts degrees from the College of Southern Idaho, which he said he earned in the 70s. He said he holds AA in refrigeration and auto-body repair.

“I may be a tradesman but I have earned that certification of my qualifications,” he said. “I have not been ‘grandfathered’ unlike perhaps some of my colleagues.”

Torres said that as a board member, he is fully committed “to an efficient and autonomous public utility without interference and micromanagement by any entity, including the administration and the Legislature.”

## LIFTING

From Page 1

Pete P. Reyes said yesterday.

The bill now goes to the governor for approval.

The Zoning Act was suspended in 1994 when property owners reportedly resisted the policy, which they perceived to be intruding on their right to decide what to do with their private properties.

The Saipan zoning law, enacted during the 8th Legislature, was in effect for one year before the Legislature decided to suspend it due to “cultural reasons.”

For instance, the Zoning Act pro-

hibits certain accommodations of a clan, or family owned land, which was seen as an indirect collision with the culture and traditions and values of the people.

People then reportedly began to complain to the Legislature that the zoning law was beginning to take its toll on their traditional practices.

The bill lifting the suspension was previously described by the House of Representatives as “comprehensive” and one that includes the proposed Garapan Planning Improvement District.

The bill intends to ensure that any development is pursued in an

orderly manner, taking into account environmental protection, historic preservation, economic viability and beautification.

Among others, the measure, authored by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, proposes that the zoning agency may order demolition or removal of nonconforming structures. Violations would also be meted out with monetary penalties and imprisonment.

The proposed measure would not allow poker establishments, massage parlors, and certain adult uses and heavy equipment repair shops within the Garapan Planning Improvement District.

## EXAMINING

From Page 7

gain of 21 jobs in total employment, while the average direct employment effect of a large firm is fewer than 5 workers. Thus, small businesses have large multiplier effects of as much as up to five times that of bigger outlets. Moreover, small business development is strongly correlated with growth in employment and tax base while the businesses owned by external large enterprise is not. The strong effects of small businesses support the idea that independent firms tend to “keep money in the community.” A slower economic growth associated with the addition of new large firms suggests that they may be displacing small firms in the process.

From another angle one can see the role of moms and pops primarily operat-

ing retail stores where business person meets households, where enterprise meets the people in the community, where the value-added of the extraction, processing, manufacturing, wholesaling and distribution chain culminates with sales to the final customer. A retail store is most closely tied to our sense of community. Great, good place, where neighbors meet, community news is exchanged, and a sense of civic culture is built. Which is why we think the increasing distance between store and household and the equally rapid increase in absentee ownership of retail stores poses a threat to our sense of community. Also, local merchants are more than providers of goods and services; they participate in neighborhood organizations, sponsor community events, and contribute more time and money to local causes than outsider owned firms. In nutshell, local stores

contribute far more to the economy. Locally owned retailers keep profits in the community and support a variety of other local businesses. Small stores create a sense of place and unique local identity. This not only enhances our quality of life but also gives us an edge in generating new investment and promotion of tourism.

Some legends will never fade away. Others just get better with age. The image of small-business owners as “mom-and-pop” operations, although outdated, continues to play an important role in American culture, for it serves to remind today’s entrepreneurs just how far they’ve come as an integral segment of the nation’s economy. Joeten Enterprise is a prime example in the CNMI. Big business is always in the news, but not in people’s lives because managers are usually outsiders

## CUC

From Page 1

consulting firm, Harris Group, on a Request for Proposal and pre-bid evaluation work.

The CUC received a proposal last year from an offshore investor, Seaboard Ship Management Inc., a Florida-based company that specializes in barge power plants.

In its onsite study of CUC’s main power plants, SSMI reported that plant systems are “very old, not being adequately maintained, and run on expensive gas oil.” These, it said, are the reasons why the cost of power generation on the island is high.

“The equipment available for generation of power is outdated, inefficient, and represents a mix of really old engines being utilized as base power units for power generation,” the report said.

It also said that CUC’s power transmission and distribution system is “generally old, inefficient, and is overextended beyond its original capacity, causing hefty line losses.”

The transmission system requires essential improvements and upgrading, including the installation of a new high voltage transmission line with substation to connect the exist-

ing and expanding grid system.

SSMI cautioned that maintaining the status quo would mean higher operational and maintenance costs.

“The privatization of power generation is very much needed to provide expanded, reliable, and cheaper power,” said the SSMI.

In its proposal, the company said the existing power plants should be replaced with possibly 35 to 55 MW of new and efficient power.

It also said there is a need to install a new 69 KV transmission line loop and a substation to connect lower voltage transmission and distribution systems.

In exchange for its proposed upgrade, operation, and maintenance of power plants, SSMI seeks a long term IPP contract with the CUC.

SSMI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seaboard Corp., which operates, maintains, and manages vessels and power plants. It presently manages 18 ships and two power plants in the Dominican Republic.

The CUC has four power plant generation facilities on Saipan: two in Lower Base, one in Puerto Rico, and one in Isley Field, which is currently inoperational. These are now valued at about \$104 million, from \$109.4 million two years ago.

## HOTEL

From Page 1

of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Division of Environmental Quality.

According to Nishigori, the planned improvements would include the construction of a new RO plant, storage tanks and pumps and additional water wells at the Paupau Terrace across the hotel. The project will also cover the closure of the existing RO brine disposal system and the conversion of old water wells into injection wells.

Hotel officials and guests held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Paupau Terrace site yesterday morning.

Besides improving the reliability of the hotel’s water supply, the new water system aims to eliminate the discharge of brine—the salt byproduct of the RO treatment—into the sea.

“Currently, the hotel mixes RO brine with sea water and discharges it into a series of complex ponds and streams within the hotel property. The brine percolates into the ground as it meanders through the streams and ponds and some of it is discharged into the lagoon with permission from EPA and DEQ under the hotel’s existing National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations Systems

permit,” Nishigori said.

Once the new water system is in place, the existing system will be decommissioned. The new system includes injection wells through which brine will be discharged underground to mix with salt water.

Nishigori explained that the new system would entail taking brackish water underground, so it could be processed into drinking water. He said the brine would be injected into salt water, which settle below brackish water.

“The RO brine and salt water are heavier than the brackish water above and disperses without adversely affecting the brackish water or lagoon water quality,” he said.

“Although the RO brine is not considered a significant pollutant, the new system is expected to help improve lagoon water quality in the areas near the existing brine discharges,” he added.

Environmentalists and tourism industry players have expressed concern over the occasional contamination of beach sites not only on Saipan, but also on Managaha Island. The beaches serve as an economic treasure, with the CNMI’s economy heavily reliant on the tourism sector.

Sometime last year, the EPA allotted over \$300,000 to the CNMI for the protection of beaches.

as well, not owners of the businesses that they operate and manage.

Here are some additional interesting facts of a mom-and-pop business. Passing of the torch of ownership and business values to successive generation may be quite challenging. Unlike big business counterparts who see executives come and go, choosing a leader to head the business poses a unique hurdle for family companies. Sometimes the internal struggles associated with picking the next generation of executives can tear a family apart. More than 30 percent of family-owned businesses survive into their second generation, only 12 percent will still be viable into the third generation and 3 percent operating at the fourth generation level and beyond.

I have presented a very broad overview of the social and economic role

of mom-and-pop at the national level. Do most of our mom-and-pop stores fit into this description? Obviously not, as you have indicated in your observation and question. Per your observation, they are mostly owned and operated by the outsiders. For that matter I would like to call them “lookalikes” and not the real mom-and-pop enterprises that are owned and operated by people from within the community. Then, it is fair to say that their social and economic effect on our community is very much likely to be similar to the bigger outsider owned businesses. Let us now pose this question to our policymakers: Were these owners of mom-and-pop stores been given residency in the CNMI under the pretext of foreign investors and what, if any, economic benefits we are deriving from them?

# IUMC takes up issue of same-sex marriage

Immanuel United Methodist Church members recently met to discuss their views on same-sex marriage in response to the CNMI Legislature’s appeal for the public to express their views on the issue.

Multi-national IUMC seeks to follow The United Methodist Church’s motto, “Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds.” IUMC welcomes people of all nationalities, young and old, single or couples of opposite or same-sex relationships.

Worship services and children’s Sunday School meet Sundays at 9 am on As Lito Road, Koblerville.

For more information, call Pastor Bud at 322-6158.

This came on the heels of House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial’s introduction of House Legislative Initiative 14-3, which aims to limit marriage to people of opposite sexes only.

Pastor Bud Carroll called the meeting to give IUMC members an opportunity to express their personal views about same-sex marriage.

“We’re grateful that our church is a safe place for people to express their views, even when differences arise. We gather today, not to fight or debate, but to share in Christian love our individual experiences, thoughts and feelings about the holiness of marriage,” said Pastor Bud in his opening remarks.

Participants were first asked, “What do you consider the most important ingredients for a happy marriage?” The wide variety of responses given included: commitment to God; mutual understanding and equality; a commitment of permanence to one another; mutual respect, kindness and love; a feeling of safety and security with each other; and open communication regardless of race and sexual orientation. One member commented, “Many people marry for companionship.”

Several participants noted that faithfulness within marriage is most important, not whether it’s a same-sex or opposite sex union. One member remarked, “The CNMI government and religious groups should be more concerned about teen pregnancies, incest, and flagrant unfaithfulness in marriage, not whether a couple who desires a faithful marriage is of same or opposite sexes.”

While many participants spoke in favor of allowing same-sex marriages, others shared opposite views. One member strongly commented, “Love between same-sexes is abnormal,” while another said, “Those in a same sex relationship feel their love is just as normal as love is to an opposite sex relationship.” Still another participant noted, “I feel same-sex marriages would in no way threaten my or others’ heterosexual marriages and am against banning same-sex marriages.”

One husband-and-wife couple shared their views: “We believe any two consenting adults willing to make a serious lifelong commitment to one another should be allowed to marry. We believe that gays and lesbians, just like heterosexuals, are made in God’s image—and God doesn’t make mistakes! We believe it’s presumptuous for us as a society to tell certain people they cannot marry the one they love simply because God chose to make them gay or lesbian.”

The discussion ended on these words, “We may have varied views about same-sex marriage, but we strongly agree that any marriage, whether same-sex or opposite sex, must be based on

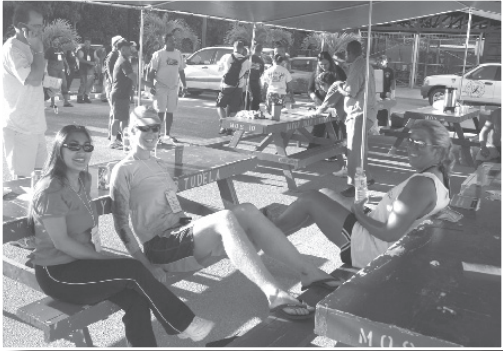
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**A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAKE UP**

Volunteers had fake blood and dirt painted onto their faces and bodies in preparation for Wednesday's Operation Safe Harbor, an anti-terror drill involving a mock chemical Weapon of Mass Destruction and an explosive attack.



**WOULD-BE VICTIMS**

Volunteers in Wednesday's Operation Safe Harbor sit around while waiting for the exercise to start. The exercise involved a mock chemical Weapon of Mass Destruction and an explosive attack.

**LET'S GO CAMPING**

A decontamination team sets up the area where "victims" of the mock terror attack will be brought. The exercise, dubbed Operation Safe Harbor, involved a mock chemical Weapon of Mass Destruction and an explosive attack.



**FAKE EMERGENCY**

A team from the Department of Public Health attends to one of the "victims" in last Wednesday's Operation Safe Harbor, an exercise involving a mock chemical Weapon of Mass Destruction and an explosive attack.



**PANIC ROOM**

A team at the Commonwealth Health Center attends to the "victims" in Wednesday's Operation Safe Harbor, an exercise involving a mock chemical Weapon of Mass Destruction and an explosive attack.

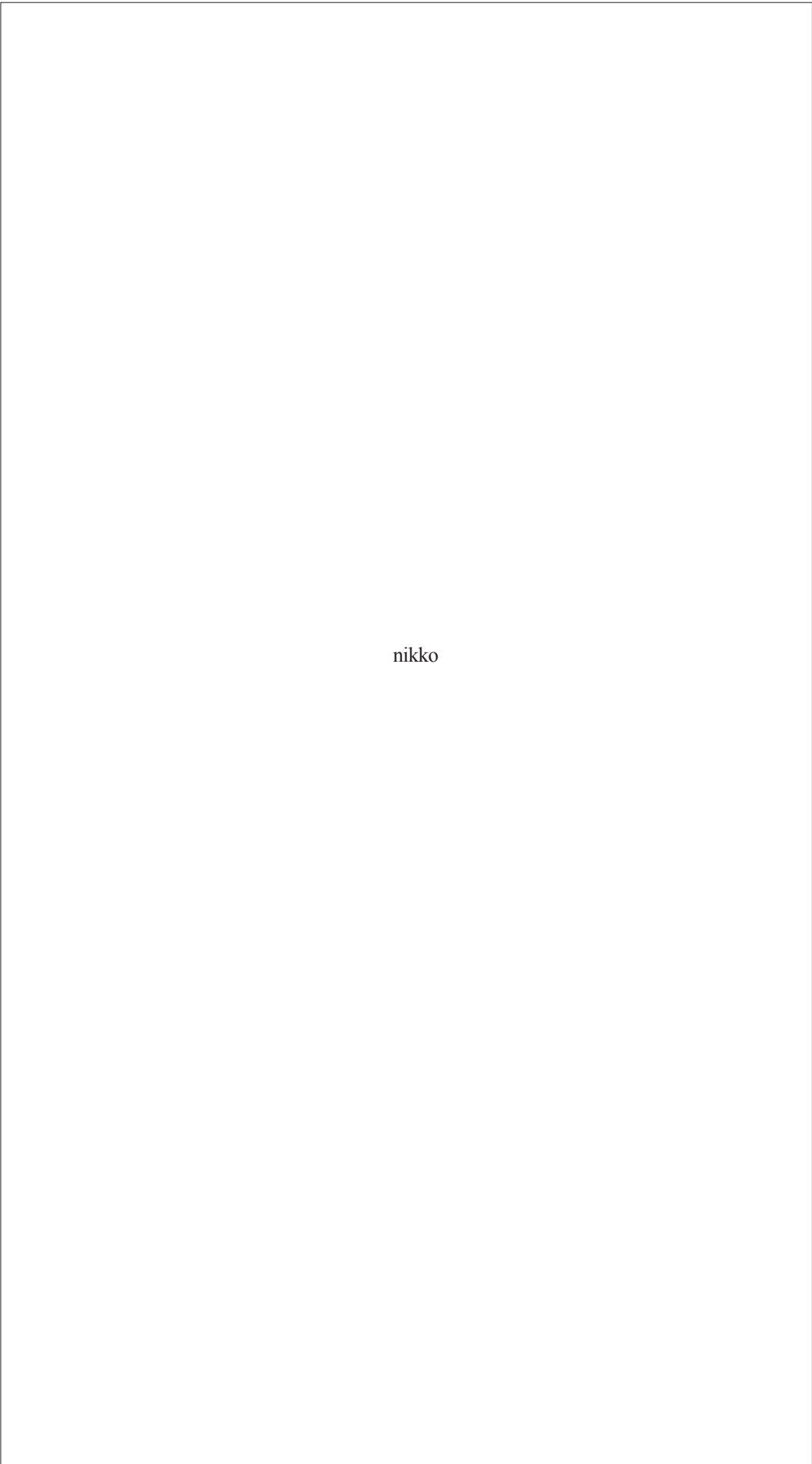
PTC-MARIANAS CUP







guangdong



nikko

# Loca Milestones

## 62 KES students bid farewell

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

A total of 62 students from Koblerville Elementary School earned promotions to the junior high school educational level yesterday, receiving certificates of completion during the school's end of the year farewell ceremony.

The ceremony kicked off with the presentation of colors and singing of the U.S. and



**Ester Paul**  
Commissioner's Award

CNMI national anthems by the STUCO and the Boy Scouts.

After welcoming remarks in three languages—English, Carolinian, and Chamorro—courtesy of students Genevieve Ngiraibuuch, Shannah Kaipat, and Ernest Cruz, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente spoke to the graduat-

ing class as keynote speaker. Benavente commended the students for completing grade school, and followed this up by challenging each one to continue to pursue success in life through education.

Following Benavente's remarks, several individual were recognized for their academic efforts, with school officials presenting various awards, including the Presidential Awards for Educational Achievement, Presidential Awards for Educational Excellence, subject awards, and Top Five awards.

It was only fitting that Ester Paul, the student posting the highest Grade Point Average from fourth to sixth grade, was honored and recognized; she was named the recipient of the Commissioner's Award.

Paul made a brief appearance at the podium, extending her appreciation to her parents, teachers, KES staff and administrators, and fellow classmates.

Acting principal Happy Miller then closed the ceremony by congratulating the students for their achievements and noting her desire that they display the skills they had learned at the school once they enter junior high level.

Prior to closing their school year, the students had final walk around the campus. They, along with parents, guest, and staff, had lunch in the school cafeteria.



**SHAN SEMAN**  
Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente presents Keoki Tudela with his certificate of completion during the farewell ceremony yesterday.



**SHAN SEMAN**  
The Koblerville Elementary School sixth grade students listen attentively to the remarks during their farewell ceremony yesterday at the school grounds.



**SHAN SEMAN**  
Tony Rogolifoi Jr., second from right, poses for a souvenir shot with from left, father Tony Rogolifoi, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, and brother Peter.



**SHAN SEMAN**  
The sixth grade students take their final walk around the school campus at the conclusion of yesterday's ceremony.

DAIICHI

Recognized for their academic achievement were the five graduates with the highest GPA of their class: Mary Cris Waing, Jessilyn Dris, Ashley Castro, Cassandra Marquez, and Laura Ramos.

CASSIE FEJERAN



Cheska Salen  
Principal's Award



Bernadette Laviste  
Commissioner's Award

# Garapan graduates 112 students

By CASSIE DLG FEJERAN  
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School held its graduation ceremony last night with teachers Marsha Owens and Beatrice Tualatai opening the floor to welcome family, relatives, and guests.

Pastor Alexis Lorzano led the invocation just before the opening remarks from the school's Principal, Yvonne R. Gomez. Following her remarks was the commissioner of education, Dr. Rita H. Inos.

Ashley Castro, STUCO president, marched up on stage to introduce the keynote speaker of the night, Brenda Schultz. Schultz was recognized as the

CNMI teacher of the year. She left the 112 graduating students with memories and advice for the challenges they will soon be facing.

Larra Ramos and Rotessa Sumpay led the graduates in their ceremonial song I Believe by Yoland Adams. Adding on to the students' performance was a special number that was composed and performed by two graduates, Tharanton Masayos and Troy Santos, who took the audience by surprise with a rap song I'm Gonna Miss This School, accompanied by the ukulele.

The most outstanding Mallard Award was presented to students who had been the most outstanding in their class.

Tricia Laborce, Peter Sablan, Antonette Cabrera, and Jesselyn Dris were a few of the graduates who received this award. The subject award, Presidential Academics award, recognition awards, and the Presidential Improvement awards were also presented to the students.

Recognized for their academic achievement were the five graduates with the highest GPA of their class: Mary Cris Waing, Jessilyn Dris, Ashley Castro, Cassandra Marquez, and Laura Ramos. The girls stood on stage to help welcome the top two graduates receiving the highest awards. The Principal's award was presented to Cheska Salen, while Bernadette Laviste was granted the

Commissioner's award and the Science subject award.

Closing the ceremony with his gratitude and appreciation to the 6th grade teachers and graduates was vice principal Rachael Teregeyo.



Brenda Schultz, the CNMI teacher of the year for 2003, speaks to the 112 graduating students.

CASSIE FEJERAN

Garapan Elementary School students listen to the speakers during their graduation ceremony.

CASSIE FEJERAN

# 39 SAES students ready for first grade

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

Some 39 kindergarten students will soon be part of the San Antonio Elementary School first grade lineup next school year after a promotion ceremony at the school grounds yesterday morning.

With parents, family members, and teachers witnessing the event, the students put on a show to remember them by, successfully performing several numbers including the Ocho Ocho and Pamela dances, which drew heavy applause from all directions.

The group also sang I'm Going to My Graduation and Busy Days.

The kindergarten cast also performed a special number that featured greetings in various languages, including Carolinian, Chamorro, Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Tagalog, and Bangladeshi.

The students were also presented with awards that marked their official farewell to the kindergarten level. They were all commended for their efforts throughout the school year.

The two teachers responsible for the students were Chibora Wasisang and Lorraine Babauta.



Kindergarten students perform a musical number during the promotion ceremony yesterday.

SHAN SEMAN



SHAN SEMAN

There was no hiding of excitement among the San Antonio Kindergarten students as they awaited the start of their promotion ceremony yesterday at the school.



San Antonio Kindergarten students recite a Chinese greeting.

SHAN SEMAN

San Antonio Kindergarten student Mikayla Duenas recites a Carolinian greeting to the audience.



Michelle Fujihira  
Commissioner's Award

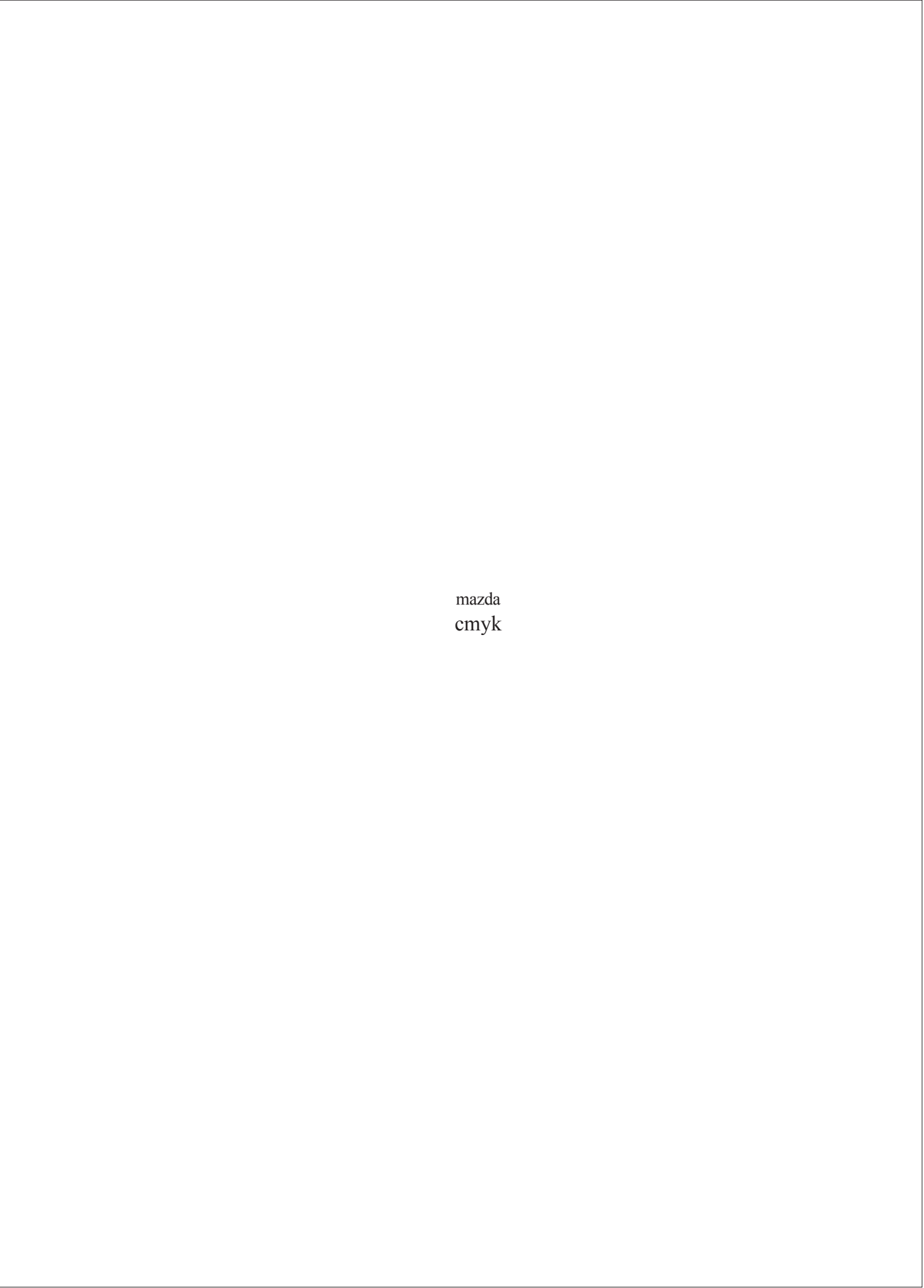
Elsiana Taitano  
Principal's Award

### CORRECTION

The captions that came out with this picture yesterday inadvertently switched the two. It should have read this way. Our apologies.

nilas  
cnyk

# Business



mazda  
cmyk

## Fledgling Tonga air services still on ground

NUKUALOFA, **Tonga** (Maganti Tonga/PIR)—Tonga might have a new domestic air service operating by June 9, but nobody knows for sure how or when it would begin.

It’s a question that worried tourist operators, stranded local people and frustrated visitors to Tonga have been asking since Royal Tongan Airlines’ domestic service came to a sudden end on May 17.

Meanwhile, unlicensed air operators are selling tickets for flights that have yet to happen.

Although there was talk that nine applications for a domestic air service license had been lodged with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Director of Civil Aviation Viliami Ma’ake said on May 28 that only one airline, Pion Air of New Zealand, had applied. There were also letters of intent to offer a domestic service from Teta Tours and Fly Niu Airlines.

While safety assessments were

still being carried out, Pion Air, with its local affiliate Vava’u Airwave, went public and advertised its flying schedule and airfares. It even started selling tickets for its first flight, advertised to leave on Saturday May 29, but the flight didn’t happen.

Viliami Ma’ake said that Pion Air is a New Zealand company currently flying domestically in New Zealand and therefore the Civil Aviation of New Zealand first had to grant Pion Air with a license to come and operate domestically in Tonga, and after that the next step was for Pion Air to apply for a license to operate in Tonga.

“ Normally this kind of application takes about 90 days to be finalized and Pion Air just submitted its application on May 17 so it has not been a month yet”.

Meanwhile Fly Niu Airlines on May 31 announced that a DC3 aircraft would arrive in Tonga on June 3, with operations to start on June 9; but no one knows under what licensing.

## Free graphics workshop for small biz owners

Are you thinking about trimming your business costs and doing more advertising and public relations work in-house? Are you thinking about accomplishing this task with that new computer you recently purchased but need some help getting started?

If you want hands on experience you’ll want to attend the Computer Graphics for Small Business Owners workshop that is being offered during the 7th Annual June Small Business Development Month in the CNMI. The workshop is one in a four part business series sponsored by the NMC Small Business Development Center and Commonwealth Development Authority.

This is hands-on workshop in a computer lab where attendees will learn the principles of the graphic design process, understand the basic features, guidelines and formats of type and images, the proper use of frames, boxes and borders, page layout, and work



Lee

with text, objects, frames, color, in creating professional-looking publications in Microsoft Publisher.

Larry Lee, who is the full-time busi-

ness and tourism instructor at Northern Marianas College, will present the workshop. He also owns and operates an advertising and graphic design firm in Saipan that has been in business for over fourteen years. The firm produces artwork, photographs, and promotional materials for the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, *Marianas Beach Press* magazine, *Beach Road* magazine, and Northern Marianas College.

Lee received a Global Master of Business Administration from National University in 2004, and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Oregon State University in 1983.

Lee’s free-to-the-public workshop will be held on Saipan from 6pm to 9pm on Tuesday, June 8, at NMC in Building W, Room 2 (Computer Lab). Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and space is limited so please telephone Robert Suzuki at 235-1551 to reserve your seat.

star & stripes

verizon  
cmyk

Nation

Nation’s capital mourns Ronald Reagan

By CALVIN WOODWARD  
and JEFF WILSON  
AP WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the storied riderless horse symbolizing the fallen president, Ronald Reagan’s casket rolled on a century-old caisson to the Capitol on Wednesday for final tributes from high officials and common Americans in the first presidential state funeral in three decades.

The 40th president lay in state under a dome where public ser-

vants from Abraham Lincoln forward have been honored. People stood by the thousands in quiet witness to his funeral procession along the broad expanse of Constitution Avenue and waited hours in steamy heat to pay last respects in the Capitol Rotunda.

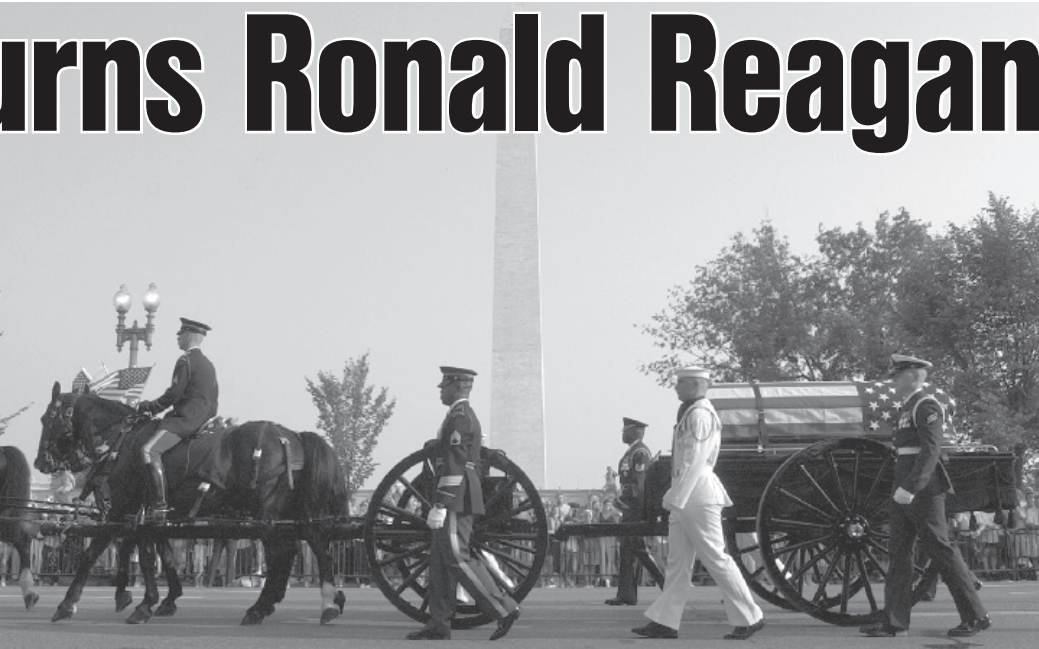
“Fellow Americans, here lies a graceful and a gallant man,” said Vice President Dick Cheney, speaking at the state funeral ceremony opening the 34-hour period of Reagan’s lying in state. “It was the vision and the will of Ronald Reagan that

gave hope to the oppressed, shamed the oppressors and ended the evil empire.”

Crowds 15 deep watched the Washington procession. Drums sounded, marking the cadence of the marchers, and cheers briefly broke out for Nancy Reagan at the head of the procession. She waved repeatedly, looking wan.

“God bless you, Nancy,” a man cried out.

In her husband’s death as in his life, she was beside him at every step. When his casket reached the landing of the Capi-



AP

A caisson carries the body of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan on its way down Constitution Avenue past the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday in Washington.

### Capitol has a scare just before Reagan honors

WASHINGTON (AP)—Law-makers, dignitaries and mourners preparing for Ronald Reagan’s funeral ceremony raced from the Capitol Wednesday after police feared an airplane was headed for the building and warned: “You have one minute to impact.”

Within minutes, authorities determined the small plane was carrying Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher to the funeral and had lost its radio transmission after flying into restricted airspace around Washington. Two F-15 fighter jets were diverted from an air patrol to intercept the plane.

The building was reopened at around 4:30 p.m. EDT, about 1 1/2 hours before the start of the procession bringing Reagan’s body to the Capitol Rotunda.

During the period of uncer-

tainty, police had hustled House Speaker Dennis Hastert—second in line to the presidency—away in a secured motorcade.

Across the street, at the Supreme Court, police gathered several of the justices and whisked them away in cars. An alarm sounded, and officers yelled at workers: “To the basement, to the basement.”

Police in the Capitol had urged people running down staircases to run faster. An officer shouted at one photographer trying to look back through a camera, “You don’t have time to look back.”

“Incoming plane!” another police officer shouted at reporters asking what was going on.

Women, many wearing formal dress for the Rotunda ceremony, kicked off high-heeled shoes to enable them to run faster.

tol, she reached out and touched it. She gazed at it, as she had been known so long for gazing at him in life.

Reagan’s body arrived at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland from California to close the first chapter in a slowly unfolding week of remembrance. In California, more than 100,000 people had paid respects to Reagan in his presidential hilltop library.

Reagan’s funeral procession was formed within view of the South Lawn of the White House. Following a long tradition, rarely seen, the body of the former president, who was an avid horseman, was carried on a black caisson drawn by six horses. The artillery carriage was built in 1918 to carry provisions and ammunition.

Behind that trailed Sgt. York, the horse with an empty saddle and boots reversed in the stirrups to symbolize a warrior who will ride no more and looks back a final time on his troops. Sgt. York stepped lively, tossing his head and appearing a bit spooked on occasion.

Overhead—only 1,000 feet overhead—21 fighter jets screamed by in four formations, a wingman breaking away and rocketing upward to signify the loss of a comrade.

By early evening, 100 people on the National Mall had been treated for heat-related illnesses, said Alan Etter, speaking for the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. U.S. Capitol Police trucked in about 150,000 of bottles of water and turned on large fans for people waiting in line to view Reagan’s casket in the Capital Rotunda.

In the service opening 34 hours of Reagan’s lying in state, Senate President Pro Tem Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, noted a tradition dating to 1824 of paying final tribute to public servants in the Rotunda.

mazda truck  
cmyk



# Bush, Blair seek wider NATO role in Iraq

By TOM RAUM  
AP WRITER

**SEA ISLAND, Ga. (AP)—**Seeking to build on rare harmony with Europe after a U.N. vote, President Bush on Wednesday proposed a wider but unspecified role for NATO in post-occupation Iraq. French President Jacques Chirac immediately objected.

Apart from the dispute over NATO's role, however, the once-bickering summit partners generally were in wide agreement a day after the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution steering Iraq's new government toward elections next year.

The eight powerful countries, including Russia and France, endorsed Bush's idea of working toward limited political and economic reforms across the broader Middle East, but tied such an effort to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Bush also used the Group of Eight economic summit to in-



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi gestures as leaders stroll along the beach for a group photo at the G-8 summit at Sea Island, Ga., Wednesday June 9, 2004. From left: President of the Council of the European Union and Prime Minister of Ireland Bertie Ahern, President of the European Commission Romano Prodi, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Jacques Chirac, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Koizumi, President Bush, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

troduce the new Iraqi president, Ghazi al-Yawer.

"I really never thought I'd be sitting next to an Iraqi president of a free country a year and half ago," Bush said in a picture-taking session with al-Yawer after the two met privately. "And here you are."

For his part, the Iraqi leader pledged to try to move his country "toward democracy. We are moving in steady steps toward it."

"We're determined to have a free, democratic, federal Iraq, a country that is a source of stability to the Middle East," al-Yawer said.

In their private meeting, Bush and al-Yawer discussed reconstruction in some detail and talked about Iraq's dealings with neighbors Syria and Iran, said a senior administration official present at the talks.

The president urged al-Yawer to get Iraqis with close Syrian ties to persuade Syria to do more to control its border and keep militants out of Iraq—even holding out the prospect of improved U.S. relations with Syria, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

But Syria would also have to "step up" and show it was more responsible, the official said. Syria remains on the State Department's list of terrorist-supporting states.

The new Iraqi president did not say whether he wanted NATO troops in his country, said another U.S. official knowledgeable about the discussions.

Bush discussed the possible expanded role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his top Iraq war ally.

"We believe NATO ought to be involved," Bush said with Blair by his side. "We will work with our NATO friends to at least continue the role that now exists, and hopefully expand it somewhat."

Blair agreed. "The next step in this is going to be for the new Iraqi government to sit down with a multinational force and work out how, over time, the Iraqi capability for security can be established and built up," he said.

But Chirac told reporters that, while he is "very much open to debate and discussion" of Bush's proposal, "I have reservations about this initiative."

"I do not believe it is NATO's purpose to intervene in Iraq," Chirac said. He said any NATO role could only be justified "if the sovereign Iraqi government were to ask for it."

Administration officials said they were not discouraged by Chirac's comments, and said there seemed to be much flexibility to find common ground between now and a NATO summit in Istanbul, Turkey, at month's end.

Sixteen of the 26 NATO members already have troops in Iraq and NATO itself provides logistical help for a Polish-led division there.

dcca

# White House says abuse memos not for al-Qaida

By CURT ANDERSON  
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The confidential Justice Department memos criticized by Democrats as laying the legal foundation for Iraqi prisoner abuses were aimed mainly at showing that international treaties banning torture do not apply to al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners, Bush administration officials say.

The department’s lawyers concluded that Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are not protected by the Geneva Conventions because they do not satisfy four main conditions of the treaty itself. Those include requirements to obey laws of war, wear insignia recognizable from a distance and operate under the command of a responsible individual.

Iraqi prisoners are protected under the treaty partly because Iraq is a participating nation in the Geneva Conventions and the United States is an occupying power, a Justice Department official wrote Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

William Moschella, assistant attorney general for legislative affairs, said in a letter released

Wednesday that despite this important difference, President Bush early in the Afghanistan conflict issued orders that al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners be treated humanely and consistently with Geneva Conventions principles.

The letter was the administration’s latest and most detailed attempt to address increasing criticism from congressional Democrats and human rights activists about what they consider a concerted effort to circumvent U.S. and international laws against torture during the fight against terrorism.

Human rights lawyers took the unusual step of filing a racketeering lawsuit Wednesday against U.S. civilian contractors who worked at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. The suit alleges contractors conspired to execute, rape and torture prisoners during interrogations to boost profits from military payments.

Some of the new abuse allegations were among the cruelest described within the Iraqi prisons.

One person, identified in court documents only as a prisoner named Rasheed, told law-

yers his tongue was shocked and his toenails pulled out. A second person, identified as a prisoner named Ahmed, said he was forced to watch while his 63-year-old father was tortured to death.

The suit seeks payments for the alleged victims and a ban on future government contracts for Titan Corp. of San Diego and CACI International Inc. of Arlington, Va., whose employees worked as government interrogators and translators.

Titan spokesman Wil Williams called the lawsuit “frivolous” and noted that the government has not accused any of its employees of abuse. “Titan never had control over prisoners or how they were treated,” Williams said.

CACI called the lawsuit “irresponsible and outrageous” and said the lawyers’ allegations were “false and malicious.”

“CACI summarily rejects and denies the ill-informed, slanderous and malicious allegations of the lawsuit that attempts to malign the work that we do on behalf of the U.S. government around the world and in Iraq,” the company said in a statement.

iconnect  
cmyk

mva  
cmyk

# Last man saved from WTC wreckage retires

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Trapped deep beneath the rubble of 1 World Trade Center, his legs crushed from hip to foot on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Lt. John McLoughlin accepted what seemed inevitable. “I assumed I was going to die where I was buried,” McLoughlin said Wednesday, 33 months after the terrorist attack, at a party celebrating his retirement from the Port Authority police.

Rescuers pulled McLoughlin from the wreckage about 22 hours after the twin towers collapsed, making him the last person rescued from the site where 2,749 others perished.

McLoughlin presided Wednesday

over roll call on the 3-11 p.m. shift at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, where he was working when the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center.

In a ceremony punctuated by tears and cheers, McLoughlin - leaning on a cane for support after undergoing 30 operations on his legs - bid an emotional goodbye to his co-workers.

“We few, we happy few, we band of brothers,” he told them, quoting Shakespeare.

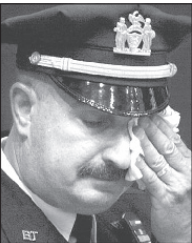
Dozens of police and brass saluted him sharply, then offered hugs, handshakes and words of encouragement as

a bagpiper played “Auld Lang Syne.”

The exertion sent rivulets of sweat pouring down McLoughlin’s face, but he persevered until every co-worker was greeted.

His wife, Donna, and their four children watched proudly, as did a collection of rescue workers, doctors and therapists who helped McLoughlin literally get back on his feet.

The lieutenant recalled Pat McGee, of the New York Police Department’s Emergency Service Unit, offering words of encouragement through the debris: “How you doing down there?



McLoughlin

## Flooding spreads as Texas rains continue

By **SHEILA FLYNN**  
AP WRITER

The creek on John Williams’ farm in northern Texas usually overflows during heavy rains. But when the downpour that started Sunday still hadn’t let up three days later, he knew something was different.

“I expected to hold some water, but not for it to be a constant Noah’s Ark,” said Williams, who had 10 inches of water in his barn in Weatherford by Wednesday.

The rains have caused extensive flooding, closed roads and prompted high-water rescues in northern Texas; other areas of the state also have seen heavy rains.

National Weather Service meteorologist Daniel Huckaby said areas west of Fort Worth have been hit with at least 10 inches of rain since Sunday.

“For a location to receive 10 inches, that’s probably an event that only happens once every few decades,” Huckaby said.

In Parker County, water swept into several houses and flooded more than 50 roads, officials said. Water levels measured higher than 3 feet on some roads, and at least nine motorists were rescued from floodwaters in Aledo, about 20 miles northeast of Fort Worth. No major injuries were reported.

Parker County officials evacuated four people Wednesday near the Murls Lake area, southwest of Lake Weatherford.

Williams said other residents in his area voluntarily evacuated their homes, but the damage to his property was manageable and his family chose to stay. His wife, Dawn, said they simply “rearranged things,” moving the horse

to a drier part of the barn and keeping items away from the standing water.

Tarrant County also faced some flooding. An estimated 200 homes were damaged Tuesday, and dozens of homes in the Eagle Mountain Lake area were damaged Wednesday, officials said.

Heavy rains also hit San Antonio to the south, and police said one woman was injured Wednesday when water buildup caused a roof collapse at a strip mall. The accident happened at a small business catering children’s parties, and several children suffered minor cuts and bruises, police said.

In Minnesota, a storm system dumped up to 9 inches of rain in the southern part of the state, leaving residents to struggle with mudslides, flooded highways and soaked basements.

We’re going to get you out.”

He grew weepy when recounting the work of his physical therapists.

His colleagues did the same watching McLoughlin.

“There is no greater gift than to see you walk into this roll call today,” said PA Chief of Department Christopher Trucillo.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police lost 37 members on Sept. 11, and McLoughlin remembered their efforts.

“I made a lot of friends in 24 years,” said McLoughlin, 51. “Remembering those we lost makes it tough.”

On Sept. 11, McLoughlin boarded a

bus at the midtown Manhattan terminal and headed to ground zero to help with the emergency.

He was with fellow PA police Officer Will Jimeno in one of the tower’s underground levels when the building collapsed nearly straight down. The pair were buried about 60 feet below street level.

Jimeno, 36, remains on injury leave but turned out to honor the man he credits with saving his life.

“Even though he was in a lot of pain, he coached me to survive,” said Jimeno. “It was something to see John take the leadership role and show such courage.”

## Couple charged with child pornography

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—A convicted sex offender allegedly recorded his wife engaging in sex acts with her two young sons and posted the images on the Internet, authorities said Wednesday.

Keith and Terri Anderson were each charged Wednesday with sexual exploitation of a minor, said Melodie Rydalch, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Paul Warner. The case is likely to be heard next week by a grand jury, which could consider additional counts.

The alleged abuse happened on multiple occasions between Jan. 1, 2003 and Sept. 11, 2003, according to the criminal complaint.

Terri Anderson, 28, is accused of performing oral sex on her sons from

a previous marriage, who were under age 7 at the time, Rydalch said. The boys also were depicted performing oral sex and simulating intercourse with their mother, according to the criminal complaint.

Under questioning by FBI investigators, Terri Anderson said she had sexual contact with the boys to please her husband, who came up with the idea, special agent Howard Martinez said in a deposition.

Keith Anderson, 46, was convicted in 1997 of child abuse and had registered with the state as a sex offender, according to a state Web site. His attorney, Jon Williams, declined comment.

Terri Anderson’s attorney, Rebecca Hyde, did not immediately return a call for comment.



## Asia

## Asian countries considering stockpiling oil

By DIRK BEVERIDGE  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Concerned that terror attacks and political instability could disrupt oil supplies, Pacific Rim energy officials say they'll make contingency plans for sudden shortages, according to a draft statement obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

"Our challenge is to protect our economies from the adverse affects of oil supply disruptions and infrastructure damage," said the statement circulated among the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

forum, including the United States, whose energy officials meet here Thursday.

Oil supplies not only face the threat of terror, but also must be secured against natural disasters, piracy in shipping lanes and system failures, according to the draft statement. Pipelines, ports, transmission hubs and other energy facilities also could be at risk, it said.

Ahead of the APEC energy meeting, officials from the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations discussed energy security Wednesday with counterparts from big Asian economies—China,

Japan and South Korea.

They wrapped up with a statement suggesting a variety of strategies, including more stockpiling of oil, while complaining about the so-called "Asian premium" that keeps crude more than \$1 per barrel higher in this region than it is elsewhere.

The recent spike in oil prices, which pushed New York futures to a record of over \$42 per barrel earlier this month, has consumers in Asia grumbling as officials worry that recent economic gains could be hard to maintain if nations remain overly dependent on expensive imports from the volatile Middle East.

Oil has fallen back by several dollars per barrel since OPEC members pledged last week to pump more. But Asian nations say they want long-term solutions to achieve energy security.

China and South Korea charged in a news conference Wednesday that speculators have pushed prices higher than supply and demand would dictate.

The vice chairman of China's State Development and Reform Commission, Zhang Guobao, compared it to "hot money" investment funds blamed by many for Asia's financial crisis that started in 1997. Zhang said speculation might have added \$10 per barrel to the oil price that was "not real."

Crude futures for July delivery were down 39 cents at \$36.89 per barrel in morning trading Wednesday in New York.

"Instability in the price of oil not only threatens energy security, but the security of a nation as a whole, as consumers become restless contending with the rising price of commodities," Philippine Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said.

Stockpiling emergency supplies could help in the long run, the Asian energy officials said Wednesday.

Japan and South Korea hold big stockpiles and China is working on one, but others in Asia say they need to catch up. Japan and South Korea will pro-



Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, center, and Iraqi Oil Minister Thamir Ghadhbhan, speaking to the Prime Minister, at center left, tour the al-Doura oil refinery in Baghdad, Iraq Tuesday, June 8, 2004.

vide technical assistance and Japan will provide some funding for studying improvements.

"Oil stockpile, which forms the very basis of energy security response, is not yet sufficient

in our region," said Shoichi Nakagawa, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry. Asia needs to "consider a coordinated operation in the future," he told reporters.

## Japanese man sues over Iraq kidnapping

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese activist who was briefly held captive in Iraq has sued his own government, saying its decision to send troops to the region angered his kidnappers and was to blame for his ordeal.

Nobutaka Watanabe, 35, is seeking the equivalent of \$46,000 for mental and physical hardship he suffered during his four days as a hostage, his lawyer Masatoshi Uchida told The Associated Press Wednesday.

"Mr. Watanabe believes his kidnapping was the result of Japan's military presence," said Uchida. "His captors told him that he had been taken because he was from a country that had sent troops to Iraq."

Watanabe, who filed the

suit Tuesday, had earlier written dispatches for his activist group from the southern city of Samawah, protesting Japan's deployment of some 550 troops there on a humanitarian mission to rebuild infrastructure.

He was taken hostage along with freelance journalist Jumpei Yasuda while traveling near the besieged city of Fallujah on April 14.

The dispatch is Japan's first to a combat zone since World War II. Echoing many critics here, Watanabe claims that the decision to send troops was illegal because it violates Japan's pacifist constitution.

"Mr. Watanabe said he knows from firsthand experience that Samawah is far from being a

non-combat zone," as the government claims, said Uchida.

The dispatch was fiercely debated at home, and similar lawsuits questioning the constitutionality of the troop dispatch have been filed at courts across the nation. Kyodo News agency said Watanabe's was the 56th at Tokyo District Court alone.

The government is eager to avoid any trouble that could increase opposition to the mission, but public skepticism has grown as violence has surged, in some cases involving Japanese.

On Wednesday, family members of two Japanese journalists killed in an ambush near Baghdad returned home with the victims' remains.

## China sees rise in the number of pandas

**BEIJING (AP)**—The population of endangered giant pandas in the wild in China has jumped by more than 40 percent to 1,590 since efforts to protect them began in the early 1990s, the government said Thursday.

However, that number is still low and pandas face threats from "human intervention" and the isolation of their scattered living areas, said a report released at

the start of a news conference by Foreign Ministry officials.

The panda, which lives in the mountains of China's southwest, is one of the world's rarest animals. Its survival is threatened by heavy cutting of forests where it lives and by hunting for its black-and-white pelt.

A survey that ended in 1988 found 1,110 pandas in the wild, the government report said.

A new survey this year found 1,590 animals, the ministry said. It said that didn't include pandas under 18 months of age, suggesting the total number could be even higher.

Since conservation efforts began in the early 1990s, the panda's "environment has improved and the number of its population has steadily increased," the report said.

# More than 20 people killed in Pakistan clashes

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—Pakistani forces clashed with heavily armed foreign militants Wednesday, killing more than 20 people in a mountainous tribal region near the Afghan border where hundreds of al-Qaida fighters are believed to be hiding, officials and a tribal elder said.

The bloodshed follows weeks of failed efforts to get the militants in South Waziristan to surrender to authorities by peaceful means after an army counterterrorism offensive in March that left 120 people dead.

Brig. Mahmood Shah, chief of security for Pakistan’s tribal regions, said foreigners and local tribesmen had been holed up in four fortress-like houses, about 25 miles from the Afghan frontier. He said they traded fire with paramilitary and army soldiers who had surrounded the area.

He said about 20 foreign militants and one paramilitary soldier had been killed, and three civilians had died in the crossfire.

“The intermittent shooting continued until 4:30 p.m. and then finally it stopped. According to our information up to 20 foreigners have been killed. We have bodies of several of them. One injured is also with us,” Shah told the private Geo television network.

He said seven of the dead had already been buried, but others were lying ravines and could not be recovered.

An army statement said earlier that the bodies of at least eight militants, some of them foreigners, had been retrieved and one wounded militant captured. The security forces suffered a few casualties, it said without elaborating.

Pakistani officials gave no information about the nationalities and the identities of those killed and captured in the clash in the Ghat Ghar area, about 20 miles west of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan.

Pakistan’s tribal areas bordering Afghanistan are a possible hideout for Osama bin Laden and his chief aide, Ayman al-Zawahiri. There was no immediate indication that top al-Qaida figures were among those involved in the clash.

Separately, Afghan and U.S. forces killed scores of Taliban rebels in a seven-day operation hundreds of miles to the southwest in a mountainous district of Afghanistan. They returned late Tuesday from the fighting in the rugged Daychopan district of Zabul province.

Jan Mohammed Khan, commander of Afghan forces and the governor of neighboring Uruzgan province, said 73 Taliban fighters were killed and 13 captured over seven days, while six Afghan government forces and four coalition soldiers were wounded and none killed.

U.S. military officials were not available for comment. Previously, officials had reported at least 40 insurgents killed in the past week.

Daychopan, a remote area and Taliban stronghold, lies near the borders of two neigh-

boring provinces, Uruzgan and Kandahar, some 190 miles southwest of Kabul.

In Pakistan, Alam Khan Wazir, a tribal elder in Wana, said two civilians—a man and

a woman—were killed in the crossfire when a mortar shell hit their house in Nikrankhel

village. Two girls inside were wounded. The victims were from the same family.

townhouse  
+red

# 70 Taliban killed in combat, Afghan says

By NOOR KHAN  
AP WRITER

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** (AP)—An Afghan commander said Wednesday that Afghan and U.S. forces killed more than 70 Taliban rebels in a seven-day operation in a mountainous southern district, including at least 20 militants who died in a single clash.

Coalition and Afghan forces returned late Tuesday from the scene of the fighting—the rugged Daychopan district of Zabul province—as the Taliban fighters they had been hunting had either been killed or fled the area, said Jan Mohammed Khan.

Khan, who is commander of Afghan forces and also the

governor of neighboring Uruzgan province, said 73 Taliban fighters were killed and 13 captured over seven days, while six Afghan government forces and four coalition soldiers were wounded, and none killed.

“We have finished our operation against the Taliban,” Khan told The Associated Press.

U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment. Previously, officials had reported at least 40 insurgents killed in the past week.

Daychopan, a remote area and Taliban stronghold, lies near the borders of two neighboring provinces, Uruzgan and Kandahar, some 190 miles southwest of Kabul.

It was also the focus of fierce clashes last August and early September which left well over 100 Taliban and one American special operations soldier dead—the heaviest fighting since the hard-line Islamic militia was ousted by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.

In the latest battle, Khan said that U.S.-led troops backed by jet fighters and helicopters on Tuesday launched an assault on 100 Taliban militants who ambushed a convoy in an area called Sharaboz Kothal.

“We collected 21 bodies,” Khan said. “The rest ran back into the mountains.” Among the dead were two local Taliban commanders, Mullah Jabar and Mullah Jalan.

On Wednesday, military spokesman Lt. Col. Tucker Mansager told reporters in Kabul that 20 anti-coalition fighters were killed in what he described as “the latest of several aggressive engagements by the Marines.”

He said that two Marines and two allied Afghans were wounded—although earlier a Marine spokesman had said five Marines were hurt. Neither official mentioned air strikes.

Some 2,000 Marines based in Uruzgan have clashed repeatedly with large bands of militants in the region.

Another Taliban commander was killed Tuesday near Musa Qala in Helmand province, some 280 miles southwest of

Kabul, said Mohammed Wali, a provincial government spokesman.

The commander, Mullah Malik, and another man opened fire on troops who tried to stop their car. Both were killed when the soldiers returned fire, Wali said. Two soldiers were wounded.

About 450 people have died across Afghanistan this year in a wave of violence that has cast

doubts on plans to hold national elections in September.Lore dion vel utpat. Lor si blam volore molorpe ostrud mincilis inci etue velisim velit nit nim am duisim vullamet alit inim dolore tionsed tat wisl enit elendreet, velit utet, sectet eui blan ulputpatem vel dit nostrud et wisl il in velesto commy nonse diate dipisit er sustisl iriustrud modipsuscip eum irit, vel dio

## Korea officials talk of ways to keep peace at sea border

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—How to implement an accord aimed at preventing naval clashes along the tense maritime border between North and South Korea headed the agenda for a meeting between the two sides Thursday, a day after the North accused the South of invading its seas.

At landmark military talks between the two sides over the past two weeks—the first time generals from North and South have met face-to-face since their 1950-53 war—they have agreed to adopt a standard radio frequency and signaling system for their navies to avoid confusion that could lead to clashes at sea.

They also agreed to exchange data on illegal fishing, and to end propaganda efforts along their land border. Loud-speaker broadcasts will be stopped, and signboards will be dismantled.

Working-level officials from two sides met Thursday to flesh out the accord at a North Korean city of Kaesong, a Defense Ministry spokesman said on customary condition of anonymity.

On the eve of the talks, North Korea highlighted the sensitivity of the issue by accusing the South’s navy of incursions across the poorly marked inter-Korean maritime border. The North said they constituted “a very dangerous military gamble which may spark off another skirmish.”

Both sides want to avoid deadly naval clashes during the current crab-catching season, when fishing boats from the two countries jostle for position along the maritime border off the west coast.

Navy boats from the two sides fought in 1999 and 2002.

North and South Korea often accuse each other of violating the western maritime border. The South recognizes a border demarcated by the United Nations after the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, but the North claims a boundary further south.

An armistice ended the conflict, but the two sides have yet to sign a peace treaty.

## US officer sentenced in S. Korea

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—A U.S. Army major accused of killing his wife and dumping her body off a bridge last year was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 26 years in prison, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

Maj. Richard Keith Hart, 45, of Orlando, Fla., was tried in a U.S. court-martial in the Aug. 12 killing of his wife, who was identified by South Korean police as 53-year-old Patricia Ann Hart.

Hart had been assigned to the Yongsan Garrison in central Seoul, the headquarters of the U.S. military in South Korea.

The judge, Lt. Col. Edward O’Brien, handed down the verdict after three days of evidence and testimony, the military said in a statement. The case will be automatically appealed.

Hart, who had been accused of second degree murder, had pleaded guilty to “impeding an investigation by stripping his dead wife of all jewelry and clothing, wrapping her in plastic and dumping her over the Young Jong Bridge,” the statement said. Hart had pleaded not guilty to the murder charge.

The judge found Hart guilty of the lesser charge of manslaughter after concluding that “his wife was a participant in her own death by provoking him before she was killed,” the military statement said.

Hart pleaded guilty to adultery and violating an order by his battalion commander to produce handwriting samples for investigators.

He was also found guilty of previous assaults on his wife and teenage daughter while he was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., between 2000 and 2003.

A South Korean highway patrol caught Hart as he dumped his wife’s body before dawn off a high concrete bridge linking the coast west of Seoul and an island where Incheon International Airport is located.

South Korean police handed Hart over to the U.S. military. When a U.S. soldier is accused of killing another GI or a family member, the case is tried in a U.S. military court.





Three South Korean mountaineers missing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Three South Korean mountain climbers were caught in an avalanche and are missing in the Chinese Himalayas, officials said Wednesday.

Four South Korean men, aided by two Sherpa guides, were trying to climb K2, the world’s second tallest mountain, when they were hit by an avalanche early Tuesday while sleeping in tents at an altitude of 21,650 feet.

The two Sherpas and a climber survived the avalanche and returned to a base camp, said the Korean Alpine Federation.

The climbers left for China’s Xinjiang Province in April hoping to reach the 28,250-foot peak by scaling its northern slope.

Many HK teachers fail ESL tests

HONG KONG (AP)—Over half of 3,307 Hong Kong teachers who recently sat for a government exam failed the English writing, listening and oral sessions, raising alarm about language standards in this former British colony.

Only 37 percent passed the writing and listening exams, 45 percent passed the oral test, while 63 percent passed the reading test, the Education and Manpower Bureau said in a statement.

Although Hong Kong was under British rule for 155 years until 1997, many people here are far from proficient in English, which is vastly different from Cantonese, their native Chinese dialect.

Critics have long complained that poor language teachers produce even poorer students. The government tried in 2001 to lift standards by introducing proficiency tests in English and Mandarin, the Chinese national tongue.

Chinese workers said killed in Afghanistan

BEIJING (AP)—Ten Chinese construction workers were killed Thursday in northern Afghanistan when “armed terrorists” opened fire at a construction site, China’s government said.

About 20 gunmen attacked the construction site in the province of Kondozi at about 1 a.m. (2000 GMT), the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Chinese diplomats.

It said security guards exchanged fire with the attackers but didn’t say whether any of the gunmen were hit.

Six Chinese workers also were injured, one of them critically, the report said.

It didn’t give any other details and the press office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said it had no additional information.

Bridge collapses in northeastern China

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—A highway bridge in northeastern China’s Liaoning province collapsed on Thursday morning, sending vehicles plunging into a river, China’s official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The Tianzhuangtai Bridge collapsed suddenly at 7:02 a.m., Xinhua said quoting local sources.

Vehicles were seen falling from the bridge, but there was no immediate word on casualties, the report said.

The bridge spans the Liao River to connect the cities of Panjin and Yingkou, 300 miles northeast of the capital Beijing.

Indonesian volcano erupts, nobody hurt

TAHUNA, Indonesia (AP)—A major eruption shook a volcano in northeastern Indonesia on Thursday, hurling stones and spewing smoke, but causing no injuries because the thousands of villagers living along the mountains slopes already were evacuated.

The explosion on Mount Awu in Sangihe Island, some 2,160 kilometers (1,350 miles) north-east of Jakarta, was followed by several smaller blasts and aftershocks. Volcanologists predicted that the eruptions would continue for some time.

“Mount Awu has already begun to explode with the major eruption on Thursday morning,” said Syamsul Rizal, a volcanologist dispatched to the island. “We cannot predict when it will end since many smaller blasts and aftershocks continue to occur,” he said.

The eruption threw up rocks near the volcano’s crater and spewed smoke about 3,000 meters (9,900 feet) into the air, but there was no lava flow, Rizal said.

Signs of an impending eruption began last week, and authorities later evacuated thousands of people living in a radius of 7 kilometers (4 miles) around Mount Awu. Nearly 12,000 people are being housed in the nearby town of Tahuna, in government offices and other public buildings.

Rizal said that because of the timely evacuation, nobody was hurt the Thursday’s blast.

A light coating of ash from the volcano—which lies just south of the Philippines’ Mindanao Island—has covered local beaches and villages.

In August 1966, the 1,320-

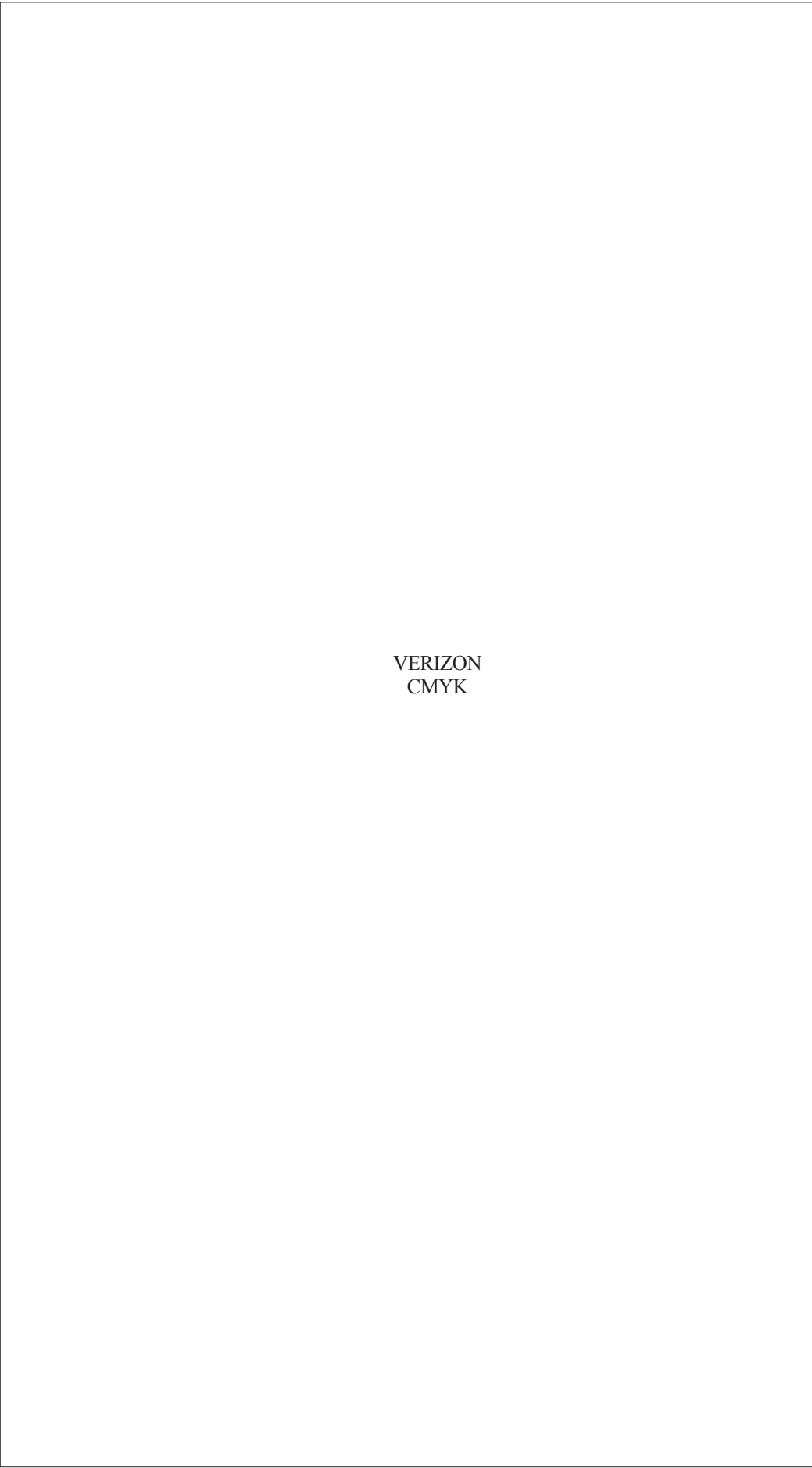
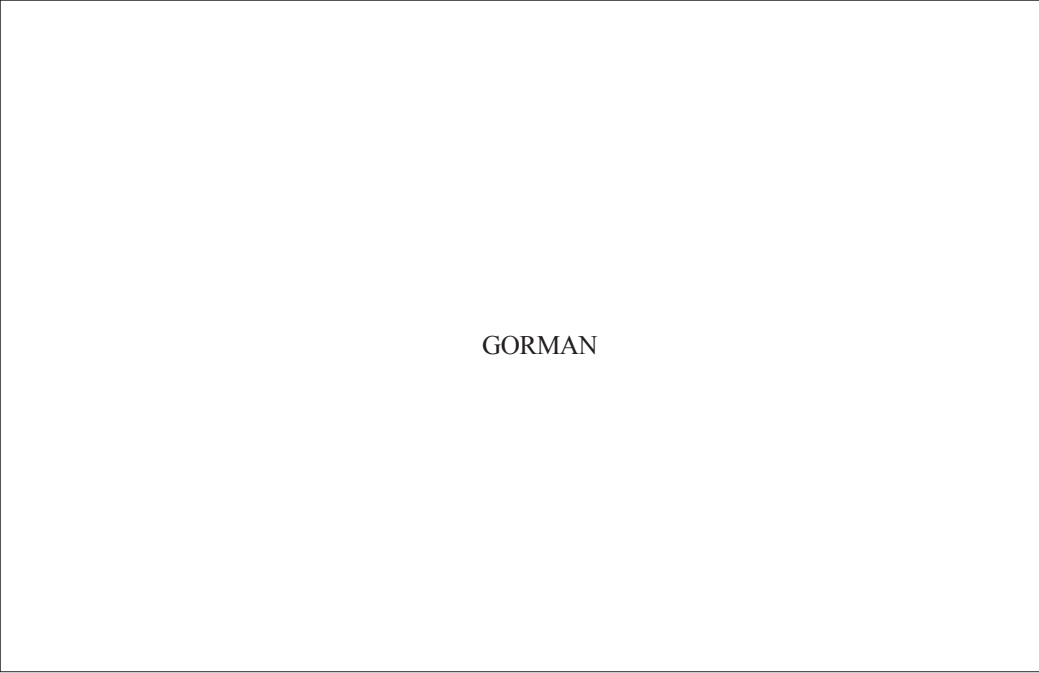
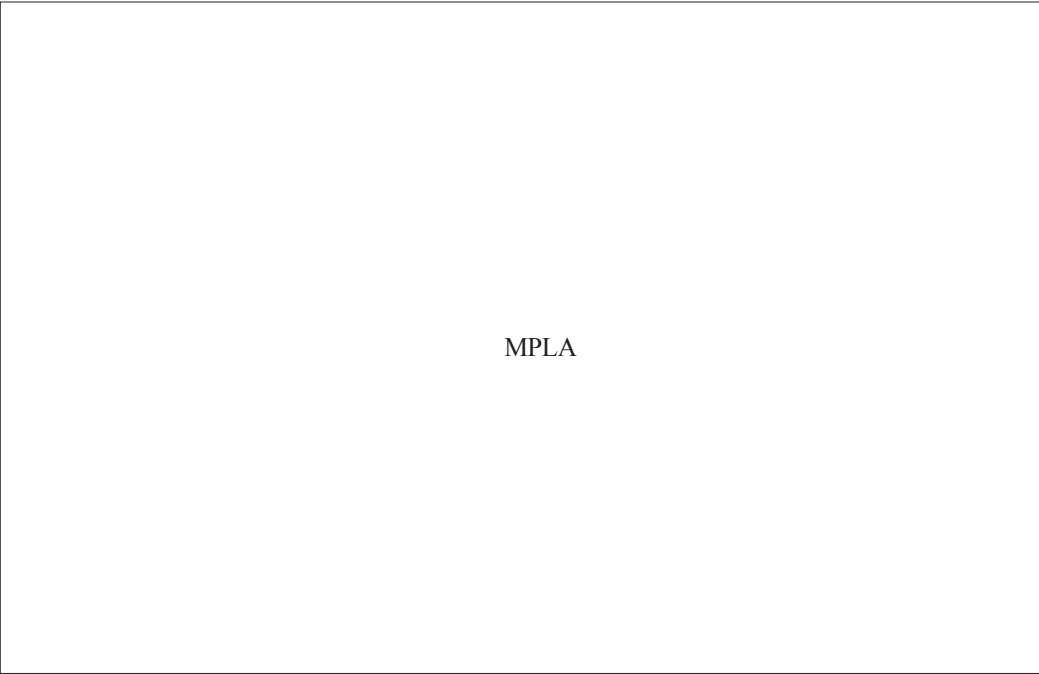
meter (4,330-feet) volcano erupted, killing 40 people. It last erupted in October 1992.

Indonesia has more active volcanoes than any other nation in the world, and eruptions are common.

On Tuesday, two hikers were killed by an eruption on Mount Bromo, a volcano popular with tourists on the eastern end of Java island.

The two were killed and seven others were injured when they were hit by a shower of hot rocks expelled by volcano, which sent a plume of smoke 3,000 meters (9,900 feet) into the air, officials said.

One of the dead was a Singaporean citizen, and the other a local tourist, police said. Rescuers were still searching for three vendors believed to have been on the mountain at the time of the eruption.



World

Saboteurs blow up key Iraqi oil pipeline

By DANICA KIRKA  
AP WRITER

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—Saboteurs blew up a key northern oil pipeline Wednesday, forcing a 10 percent cut on the national power grid as demand for electricity rises with the advent of Iraq’s broiling summer heat.

Meanwhile, gunfire rang out Wednesday night in the Shiite holy city of Najaf for the first time since an agreement last week to end weeks of bloody fighting between American soldiers and militiamen loyal to

radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Residents said gunmen attacked a police station near the city’s Revolution of 1920 Square, and it appeared American troops were not involved.

Clashes persisted Wednesday around Fallujah, a rebellious Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad. Four members of an Iraqi force in charge of the city since April were wounded when a mortar round exploded. 1st Lt. Amer Jassim speculated the attackers were firing at Americans but missed.

The pipeline blast near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad,

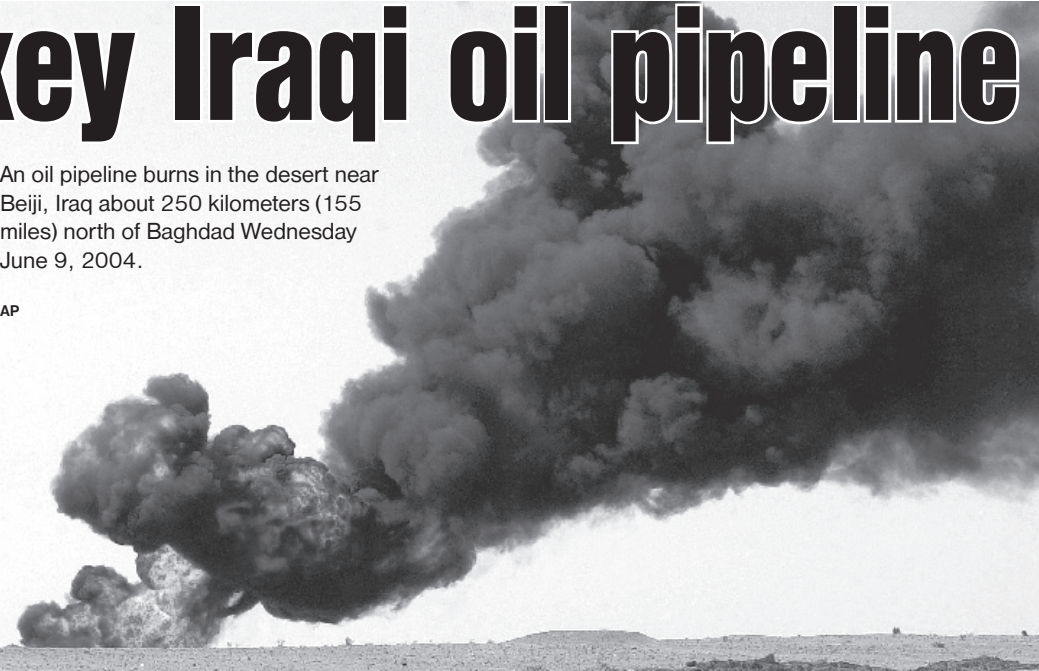
was the latest in a series of attacks by insurgents against infrastructure targets, possibly to shake public confidence as a new Iraqi government prepares to take power June 30.

The attack on the pipeline—which carries fuel to the Beiji power station, one of Iraq’s largest—forced a 10 percent cutback in the country’s 4,000-megawatt production, Assem Jihad, an Oil Ministry spokesman, told Dow Jones Newswires.

The U.S.-run coalition had made its ability to guarantee adequate electricity supplies a

An oil pipeline burns in the desert near Beiji, Iraq about 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Baghdad Wednesday June 9, 2004.

AP



US general says Iraq police training a flop

**TAJI, Iraq (AP)**—Misguided U.S. training of Iraqi police contributed to the country’s instability and has delayed getting enough qualified Iraqis on the streets to ease the burden on American forces, the head of armed forces training said Wednesday.

“It hasn’t gone well. We’ve had almost one year of no progress,” said Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Eaton, who departs Iraq next week after spending a year assembling and training the country’s 200,000 army, police and civil defense troops.

“We’ve had the wrong training focus—on individual cops rather than their leaders,” Eaton said in an interview with The Associated Press.

A credible, well-equipped national security force is crucial to America’s plans to pull its 138,000 troops out of Iraq, along with the 24,000 soldiers from Britain and

other coalition countries.

As U.S. occupation leaders prepare to hand power to an Iraqi government in less than three weeks, Iraq’s own security forces won’t be ready to take a large role in protecting the country. A U.N. Security Council resolution approved Tuesday acknowledges Iraq’s lack of a developed security force and provides a continued multinational troop presence until 2006.

Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy U.S. defense secretary, wrote in Wednesday’s Wall Street Journal that the Iraqi army—including the Taji-based Iraqi National Task Force, which focuses on internal strife—will begin assuming some security duties over the next few months.

Iraqi forces could soon “take local control of the cities,” with U.S. troops moving into a supporting role, Wolfowitz wrote.

benchmark of success in restoring normalcy to Iraq. However, sabotage and frayed infrastructure have impeded efforts to eliminate power outages, especially in the capital.

More than a year after the occupation began, power cuts are common nationwide, in some places topping 16 hours a day. Demand is rising with the advent of summer, with temperatures already topping 100 degrees.

Elsewhere, Polish authorities said an explosion that killed six European soldiers—two Poles, three Slovaks and one Latvian—south of Baghdad on Tuesday was caused by a mortar attack rather than an accident as first reported.

Gen. Piotr Czerwinski, the head of a special investigating commission, said he suspected that Saddam Hussein loyalists were responsible for the deaths—the first in Iraq for the small Slovak and Latvian contingents.

U.S. and other multinational forces will remain in Iraq after the new government takes power at the end of the month under terms of a resolution approved unanimously Tuesday by the U.N. Security Council.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi described the vote as a victory for Iraq because it declares an end to the military presence when a constitutionally elected government takes power in 2006—or before, if the Iraqi government requests it.

“The resolution is very clear that once Iraq stands on its feet, then we would ask the multinational forces to leave Iraq,” Allawi said. “This is ... an entirely a government issue.”

In Rome, three Italians returned home Wednesday, a day after they and a Polish hostage were freed by coalition forces. Kidnappers had held the Italians for two months.

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# Global military spending soars in 2003

By MATT MOORE  
AP WRITER

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)**—World military spending surged during 2003, reaching \$956 billion, nearly half of it by the United States as it paid for missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror, a prominent European think tank said Wednesday.

The money has been effective in waging war, but threats of terror and weapons of mass destruction still exist, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Military spending rose by 11 percent, which the group called a “remarkable increase.” The amount was up 18 percent from 2001.

The \$956 billion spent on

defense costs worldwide corresponded to 2.7 percent of the world’s gross domestic product, according to the annual report.

“It’s very close to the Cold War peak in 1987,” said SIPRI researcher Elisabeth Skoens, who co-authored the report.

SIPRI also warned of fears that biotechnology research, particularly concerning human genes, could lead to the development of a new class of biological weapons.

“The free access to genetic sequence data for the human genome and a large number of other genomes, including for pathogenic micro-organisms, is a great scientific resource, but it could pose a significant threat if misused,” the report said.

Researcher Richard Guthrie said developments in mapping the human genome, which could lead to improved medicines and vaccines for heart and neurological problems, also could be used by terrorists.

“It is something to be concerned about,” he told The Associated Press, but added that no plausible threats have been made.

The United States led the world in defense spending, accounting for 47 percent of the total, followed by Japan with 5 percent and Britain, France and China, with 4 percent each.

The figures were in line with estimates by Jane’s Information Group, a spokesman from the company’s London office told the AP.

The 2003 rise in defense spending coincided with a decrease in the number of conflicts worldwide, which fell to 19, the second-lowest since the think tank began issuing the reports 35 years ago.

SIPRI also noted that 14 separate peace missions began last year, the most since the end of the Cold War.

The report had mixed reviews about efforts to contain weapons of mass destruction.

It warned that attempts to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons were hampered last year when North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and cited Iran’s apparent possession of nuclear material and information.

## Engines used in missiles found in Jordan

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—U.N. weapons experts have found 20 engines used in banned Iraqi missiles in a Jordan scrapyard along with other equipment which could be used to make weapons of mass destruction, an official said Wednesday.

The discoveries were revealed to the U.N. Security Council by acting chief U.N. inspector Demetrius Perricos during in a closed-door briefing. The text was obtained by The Associated Press.

The U.N. team was following

up on an earlier discovery of a similar Al Samoud 2 engine in a scrapyard in the Dutch port of Rotterdam. Perricos said inspectors also want to check in Turkey, which has also received scrap metal from Iraq.

In his briefing to the Security Council, Perricos said U.N. inspectors do not know how much material has been removed from Iraq that they had been monitoring because of its potential dual use in both legitimate civilian activities and banned weapons production.

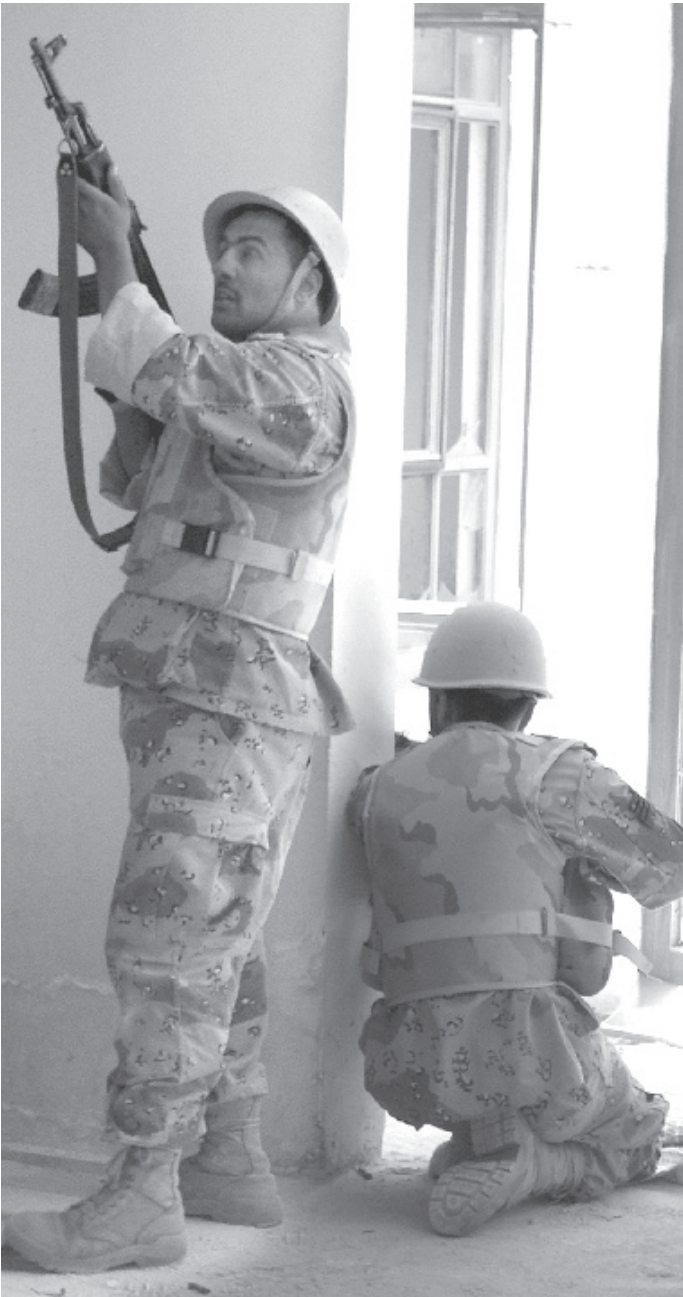
U.N. inspectors were pulled out of Iraq just before the war began in March 2003, and the United States has refused to allow them to return, instead deploying its own teams to search for weapons of mass destruction.

Perricos suggested that the interim Iraqi government, which will assume sovereignty when the U.S. and British occupation of the country ends on June 30, may want to reconsider “the whole policy for the continued export of metal scrap” which apparently started in

mid-2003 and is regulated by the U.S.-led coalition.

“The removal of these materials from Iraq raises concerns with regard to proliferation risks ... thereby also rendering the task of the disarmament of Iraq and its eventual confirmation, more difficult,” Perricos said.

“The only controls at the borders are for the weight of the scrap metal, and to check whether there are any explosive or radioactive materials within the scrap,” he said, according to the text of his briefing.



Iraqi troops train at a military facility in Taji, Iraq Wednesday June 9, 2004.

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# Jewish settlers to start leaving Gaza in August

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel will begin compensating Jewish settlers in Gaza to abandon their homes this summer as a head start on the evacuation that to be completed by Sept. 30, 2005, according to a government document obtained by The Associated Press.

Settlers refusing to leave will be removed by force in the final month, according to the government timetable, presented Wednesday to the committee preparing the pullout.

On Sunday, the Cabinet agreed in principle to withdraw from Gaza and four small West Bank settlements in four stages by the end of 2005. The timetable contained in the document calls for completion of that process more than three months early.

The accelerated timetable appeared to reflect Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s determination to go ahead with the pullout, despite opposition from hard-liners who this week deprived him of his parliamentary majority and threatened to bring him down.

Sharon has maintained that turning Gaza territories over to Palestinian control will boost Israeli security and help cement control of large blocs of

West Bank settlements, where most settlers live.

In Washington, Sharon adviser Zalman Shoval said the houses at the settlements would be destroyed, but the public buildings would remain. He told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a private research group, that many Israelis did not want to see Palestinian flags flying from homes once occupied by Israeli Jews.

According to the plan contained in the document, 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank would be evacuated by Sept. 15, 2005, and the army would pull out of Gaza by the end of that month. The process would begin with voluntary exit by settlers, beginning in August this year, in exchange for compensation.

The timetable for evacuation of the 7,500 Jewish settlers and the military was put together by Israel’s National Security Council. The document was handed to representatives of government ministries during a first meeting Wednesday of the committee planning the pullout.

In a speech Wednesday, Sharon repeated his goal of winding up the Israeli presence in Gaza. “Israel made a decision this

week crucial to its future, a decision on the disengagement plan that will be completed by the end of 2005,” he said.

Evacuation “by force” of settlers who refuse to leave on their own would begin on Sept. 1, 2005, to be completed by September 15, 2005.

The second section of the timetable calls for negotiating with international organizations about issues like transferring property. The target date is October 2004.

The third section orders the military to begin preparing its withdrawal in July 2004, pulling out of Gaza between Sept. 15 and Sept. 30, 2005, just after the final evacuation of the settlements.

Israel originally took the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East War. Israeli troops withdrew from 60 percent of Gaza in the mid-1990s, as part of interim peace agreements with the Palestinians.

However, during more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, Israeli troops repeatedly raided Palestinian-controlled areas of the strip and have had to keep troops on the ready to defend the small number of settlers.

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# Nine killed in rioting over Nigeria mosque

By JOHN MURRAY  
AP WRITER

**ABUJA, Nigeria** (AP)—Christians battled Muslims in a Nigerian city Wednesday, burning homes and places of worship in a dispute over construction of a mosque near a Christian tribal leader’s palace. Police confirmed nine deaths and witnesses put the toll at more than 50.

Muslims and Christians alike were fleeing the town of Numan, near Nigeria’s eastern border with Cameroon. Authorities imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew to try to stop the bloodletting.

Adamawa state Gov. Boni Haruna visited the town on Wednesday, at one point shedding tears as he toured the town’s morgue with journalists.

John Ngamfa, a reporter with the state-owned Scope newspa-

per, told The Associated Press he saw “many bodies, more than 50” piled up in the morgue.

Many phones were down in the area, and mortuary officials could not be reached directly for comment.

Police commissioner Abubakar Hafiz Ringim confirmed nine killed.

Christians of the local Bachama tribe had demanded for weeks that the area’s minority Muslims destroy a mosque built early this year near the palace of Bachama chief Freddie Soditi Bongo.

The Bachama complained the mosque’s minaret was an affront to majority Christians because it was taller than the Christian leader’s palace.

Muslim leaders had refused to destroy the mosque until Christians pay for a new one elsewhere.

When the fighting began Tuesday, youths tore down the minaret and heavily vandalized several other mosques in nearby Gyawana village, several Christian witnesses said.

Resident Joseph Myaturti, a Christian, said he saw one of the Muslim builders working on the mosque dragged to the chief’s compound, where the man was whipped with chains.

Myaturti spoke to the AP from the Adamawa state capital, Yola, where he had fled overnight.

Fighting continued Wednesday despite the deployment of police reinforcements to the area.

Christian-Muslim violence has raged in Nigeria since a dozen northern states began implementing the strict punishments of Islamic Shariah law in 2000. Thousands have died in the fighting.

## Suspected nail bomb injures 22

**COLOGNE, Germany** (AP)—A bomb packed with nails exploded in a shopping street Wednesday, injuring 22 people, police said. Authorities said they had no immediate evidence of a terrorist attack.

The blast shortly before 4 p.m. spewed broken glass and debris along the street in the Muelheim neighborhood, a Turkish area of family shops and three-story residential buildings.

Twisted carpenter’s nails littered the street, leading police to conclude that they were part of an explosive device. A wrecked bicycle lay in front of the two most heavily damaged shops, prompting speculation that the bomb might have been on it.

Police said in the hours after the blast that they had

no suspects or motive.

“Considering the current evidence, it was a nail bomb,” Cologne police spokesman Juergen Goebel told ARD television.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, and “there is absolutely no indication of a terrorist” connection, police spokesman Wolfgang Beus said.

ZDF public television also said German security officials did not believe the blast was an attack by a militant group. The report gave no sources.

A U.S. official in Washington said it is too early to tell if the explosion had any links to anti-Western extremists. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators were checking whether it could

have been an internal dispute in the Turkish neighborhood.

Twenty-two people were hurt. Four had serious injuries, mostly broken bones.

A pizzeria and a hairdresser’s salon were the most seriously damaged in the explosion, and one person who was standing outside the pizzeria was among those seriously hurt, fire department spokesman Stefan Lakenbrink said.

Police sealed the street and set up a tent over the explosion site before nightfall to preserve evidence. Explosives experts were working to determine the bomb’s components.

“We know absolutely nothing about the background” of the blast, police spokeswoman Catherine Maus said.

## Lawyer says he gave phone taps to US

**ROME** (AP)—An Italian prosecutor said Wednesday he had provided U.S. authorities with transcripts of phone calls between terror suspects, including one that reportedly refers to a woman ready to carry out a chemical attack in the United States.

The two terror suspects were arrested Tuesday in Milan and include Rabie Osman Ahmed, an Egyptian believed to be behind the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, said Milan prosecutor Maurizio Romanelli.

In one of the intercepted phone conversations, Osman Ahmed refers to a woman ready to carry out a chemical attack in America, the ANSA news agency reported.

When asked about the content of the transcripts, Romanelli pointed to news reports that mention the alleged

chemical plot. He did not dispute the reports, but he said he would not comment further on the content of the wiretaps.

The wiretaps refer to “small groups ready to carry out suicide attacks,” he said. In most cases, the likely location of the attacks was Iraq, he said. The prosecutor gave no further details.

Police arrested Osman Ahmed in Milan on Monday along with the man he was lodging with, a Palestinian identified as Yahia Payumi.

Authorities say Osman Ahmed is a key suspect in the Madrid attacks. The bombings killed 191 people and have been blamed on Islamic extremists with possible links to al-Qaida.

Italian officials suspect Osman Ahmed was planning further attacks, and they tipped off Belgian counterparts who

arrested 15 people Wednesday in coordinated raids.

At least one of the 15—mostly Palestinian, Jordanian, Moroccan and Egyptian—had previously been in contact with Osman Ahmed, Romanelli said.

The AGI news agency reported Wednesday that the suspects may have been planning an attack on the Paris subway system. Osman Ahmed was recorded asking one of those arrested in Belgium about the Paris Metro and security there, AGI said, citing police sources. Authorities were not immediately available to confirm the report.

Asked about a report in Milan daily Corriere della Sera that the suspects were planning an attack against a NATO base in Belgium, Romanelli said investigators had no information on specific targets.

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# Science & Technology

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# Future of visual gadgets rolled out

By ALLISON LINN  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

SEATTLE (AP)—A television sewn into your shirt sleeve. A dashboard screen to monitor the kids in the back seat. A 3-D computer monitor sharp enough to make a hardcore gamer’s heart stop—or help a surgeon start one. The gizmo-packed exhibition hall at the Society for Information Display’s international symposium offers a tantalizing vision of what’s to come.

This week’s meeting was all about extremes—monitors that are very big or very small, very thin, very light and very, very high-resolution.

Another big focus: making the cutting-edge technology very low cost.

While some tech enthusiasts are willing to shell out thousands of dollars for the next new thing, whether and how soon more mainstream versions of these gadgets will appear in your living rooms—or even clothing—will depend largely on the price.

Few can afford to pay about \$12,000 for a stunningly detailed 3-D computer monitor from SeeReal Technologies GmbH. The screen has two built-in cameras that track eye movement, so the viewer can move about and still see the 3-D display in focus.

For now, the product is aimed

at government officials who pore over detailed maps or doctors who perform delicate surgery. But its tiny German maker recently introduced a lower-end version—sans the eye-tracking system—for about \$3,600.

In perhaps a year, SeeReal hopes it can offer a consumer version—ideal for video game enthusiasts—for about \$500.

While many companies were promoting super-slim screens for use in cell phones and other handheld devices, researchers from Royal Philips Electronics were showing off technology that would make screens as thin and flexible as plastic.

The ultra-lightweight displays, still in development, also promise to be rugged but easier to cut to size, potentially making them much easier for manufacturers to work with, said Henri Jagt, a researcher with Philips in the Netherlands.

The screens could be used for “wearable displays” sewn onto jeans or a sweater, or to create a low-cost curved computer monitor. But Jagt said such products won’t hit the market for at least three years.

Eastman Kodak Co. touted its thin, high-resolution screens made with “organic light-emitting diodes” as being better than liquid-crystal displays because they don’t need a backlight.

The technology, already found in digital cameras, cell phones

and car stereos, could be incorporated into a dashboard monitor to police the kids or a rearview mirror display to offer directions to the hotel, the Rochester, N.Y.-based company said.

Korea’s Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. is working at what might appear to be cross-purposes. Its massive 80-inch plasma screen is designed to provide high resolution at a low cost, while its tiny 1.8-inch LCD screen aims to wow users with little regard to cost.

Spokesman Bryan Sohn said enthusiasts who would buy the small screens are concerned less with the price tag and more with the experience—whether they can watch a graphically complex movie like “The Matrix” on a cell phone. He wouldn’t say how much that experience might cost.

For companies such as Samsung and Kodak, a big selling point for their new screens is their ability to produce sharp and clear images even when seen from an angle.

But 3M Co. says the advantage of one of its screens is that data can’t be seen from the side, thus protecting confidential information from the prying eyes of strangers.

The St. Paul, Minn.-based company has for years offered shields that could be installed over computer screens, said engineer Ken Miller. Now, it is building the shields into the displays.

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Life & Style

Historians differ on Reagan legacy

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Was Ronald Reagan a great president? For historians, many of whom never voted for him, it depends on the definition of “great.”

“This is where some of my fellow liberals in the scholarly world disagree, but I think he was a great president in the single most important way, which is conviction, strength,” said presidential scholar James McGregor Burns, whose many books include “Leadership,” an influential study of leadership qualities.

“I do not think he was a great president,” said fellow liberal Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., a Pulitzer Prize winning historian. “But I think he was an effective leader who could change people’s minds and give voice to lurking feelings in people’s hearts.”

History is in theory written by the winners, but in practice it’s written by historians. And assessing Reagan, who died last weekend at age 93, has become a test case for separating personal beliefs from professional judgment.

As a president able to articulate a vision, fulfill that vision and shape his times, Reagan

ranks among the very top, “right behind Theodore Roosevelt,” said Joseph Ellis, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning “Founding Brothers” and an acknowledged anti-Reagan voter.

“There is an implicit liberal bias in academia, but you have to be impressed by the fact that Ronald Reagan fundamentally altered the political culture,” Ellis said.

In 1999, C-SPAN conducted separate polls of historians and viewers that asked respondents to rank the presidents. Historians placed him at No. 11, just below Lyndon Johnson and just ahead of James K. Polk. Viewers made him No. 6, just below Thomas Jefferson, but ahead of Johnson, Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy. Abraham Lincoln had the No. 1 spot on both polls.

Historians recognize Reagan’s great popular appeal, his oratory gifts and heroic image as the victor of the Cold War and upholder of old-fashioned virtues. But opinions differ on whether Reagan’s success was also the nation’s.

“I think he was a great leader, but he was always leading in the wrong direction,” said David Herbert Donald, professor emeritus at Harvard University and author of several acclaimed

books on President Lincoln.

“His domestic policy was a disaster,” Sean Wilentz, a professor of history at Princeton University, said. “That’s an opinion. But there are facts, objective facts. He had an economic theory, Reaganomics, that was supposed to balance the budget and instead he ended up with those deficits.”

In Burns’ “Leadership,” the historian outlines what he calls a “transformational” leader, one who doesn’t simply make deals, but changes minds. Burns sees Reagan as this kind of president.

“I guess it becomes a question of one’s own beliefs, but as a student of leadership, I can admire what Reagan did,” Burns said.

“He pulled up thinking about conservatives from the shambles Barry Goldwater had made of it when he ran in 1964. Reagan modernized, broadened it, and, above all, stuck to it. His conviction shone through and that’s tremendously important.”

Asked to which presidents Reagan could be likened, Burns compared him to Franklin Roosevelt as a “transformational” president. Wilentz mentioned James K. Polk, a forceful, but less memorable executive. Donald and Schlesinger could not think of anyone.

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# Country music radio full of pro-war songs

By JOHN GEROME  
AP WRITER

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Country music artists are hardly united in their support of the war in Iraq—but you’d never know it from listening to the radio.

While Toby Keith, Darryl Worley and Charlie Daniels have scored hits with patriotic, war-themed songs, others such as Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Nanci Griffith released anti-war, or at least questioning, songs that went nowhere.

“Country radio does enough research that they understand listeners are supportive of the military in Iraq and just don’t want to get involved with those songs,” said John Hart, presi-

dent of Nashville-based Bulls-eye Marketing Research.

“I work with 32 stations, and I have not seen one test any of these anti-war songs.”

But the patriotic tunes that were everywhere at the beginning of the military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq have slowed. John Michael Montgomery’s touching “Letters from Home” is the only current chart hit with a war theme, and it is neither an angry call to arms nor a love letter to America.

Hart believes the flag-waving songs reached a saturation point. He also says the continuing hostilities in Iraq and recent prison abuse scandal may have tempered the enthusiasm expressed early in the conflict.

“I think right now the labels and radio feel they have come to a line in the sand where they need to slow down,” Hart said. “And the artists are hesitant to release anything right now that they think might be overkill.”

Patriotism is a strong undercurrent to this week’s Country Music Association Music Festival, which runs Thursday through Sunday in Nashville.

In addition to donating tickets to soldiers in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, CMA will also hold a reunion of entertainers who performed for troops in Iraq last December. Guests at the Friday event include Worley, whose “Have You Forgotten” remains a conservative rallying cry, as well

as liberal comedian and author Al Franken and “JAG” actress Karri Turner.

Franken said the backlash against the Dixie Chicks after lead singer Natalie Maines criticized President Bush on a London stage last year had “a chilling effect on what people felt they could or couldn’t say” in country music.

“And that’s too bad,” Franken said. “I think people should be free to express their politics.”

Worley, too, cited the Dixie Chicks’ incident.

“They made a pretty strong statement about the president, and we haven’t heard much of them on country radio either. There is a silent majority in this country, and

it is a whole lot stronger than people might think.”

Country artists are regarded as more conservative than those in other genres, but there are exceptions. Alt-country icons Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Rosanne Cash and Lucinda Williams lent their names to a petition by the protest group Musicians United to Win Without War. Respected songwriters Rodney Crowell and The Mavericks’ Raul Malo have been frank about their opposition to the president. A new group called the Music Row Democrats formed this year to give a political voice to country songwriters, musicians, producers and record executives.

Still, the few country songs


that have express reservations about Iraq have failed to click.

Worley believes some of that has to do with the artists releasing them, noting that veteran singers such as Nelson and Haggard have had trouble cracking the charts with any kind of song in recent years.

But market researcher Hart thinks it is more than that. He says an anti-war song by a hot contemporary artist would fizzle as well because of the conservative tilt of country audiences.

“I’ve been in country music since 1972, and I think every conflict is that way,” said Hart, a Vietnam veteran. “Every time we bomb somebody it’s ‘Hell yeah!’ Let’s kick their ... ‘That’s where country music is coming from.’”

By JIM SHEA  
The Hartford Courant



## A man’s kitchen, designed for comfort, minimum work

What if kitchens were designed for men?

The first thing to catch your eye would be the refrigerator.

It would be taller so that everything would be at eye level, and wider, with conveyor belts rather than shelves. There would be a small TV inside to stay abreast of game action, as well as a built-in GPS system to pinpoint the exact location of things you never can seem to find, like ketchup and sides of beef.

The stove, in contrast, would be much, much smaller and feature only one large burner, which is all you really need for frying.

To save money, there would be no oven, because the only thing men use the oven for anyway is to allow day-old pizza to cure.

There would, however, be a microwave, and it would be huge, the size of a washing machine, with enough power to zap a half-dozen frozen entrees at once, in case, you know, you’re having a dinner party.

There would be three dishwashers, which would be used in rotation: one for clean dishes, one for dirty dishes and one for dishes that fall between the two extremes, like those you can just brush the crumbs off, and they’re good as new.

The dishwashers would not only be used for washing but also storage because, in terms of time management, cupboards just don’t make any sense.

The garbage disposal would also be king-size. It would have a 2-foot diameter hole in the middle and be capable of handling anything you put in it, from chicken bones, to cans and bottles, to car parts.

To handle bulk waste, there would be a state-of-the-art trash compactor fueled by a large but tasteful nuclear reactor. This appliance would be powerful enough to reduce one of those big green bags of refuse to something the size of a cigarette pack and, in doing so, essentially eliminate the dreaded taking-out-the-garbage chore.

The toaster would appear to be standard but would be modified to shoot slices five to six feet into the air. This would not only allow for cooling but also put some of the fun back in toasting.

A key element of the male kitchen would be the floor, which would be a smooth material that could be scraped, washed and polished by simply going over it a few times with the “Home Zamboni.”

It goes without saying that there would be a giant-screen TV, and it would come with surround-sound to counter the behavior of family members who insist on holding dinner-time conversations when you’re trying to watch the news.

As for furniture, I’m thinking comfort and practicality; maybe two pairs of front seats from a Lexus, which, of course, would be leather, heated, fully adjustable and come with cup holders.

Yeah, we’re talking dream kitchen here.

ctsi





## Girl discovers boyfriend has other priorities than grades

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 15 and had always attended the same school until last year, when my parents moved to another state.

After we got here, I met this cool guy, "Ted." We had a relationship until last December, when he and his family moved to another neighborhood and he had to change schools.

I never had a chance to tell Ted that I love him until three months ago. We met at a ballgame and I confessed. He said he loved me, too. I asked if we could be a couple again. He told me he couldn't deal with that right now because he has to concentrate on school before he deals with having a girlfriend. After he said it, I realized my grades should be my highest priority, too.

Two weeks ago, he called and asked me when we could have sex. I told him in six years, when I'm 21 and out of school. I think I'll be ready by then for that kind of a relationship.

Should he have asked me that question? And should I have agreed so quickly?

CONFUSED IN GEORGIA

**DEAR CONFUSED:** Considering that Ted isn't ready for a serious relationship, I'd say his question was extremely presumptuous. And you didn't "agree quickly." You handled the question intelligently, letting him know that as much as you care for him, you're not a pushover and your own priorities must come first. Although you said you'd consider it at 21, I have a hunch he was more interested in what he could expect on Saturday night.

**DEAR ABBY:** "John" and I started dating two years ago, when he was a college freshman and I was a junior in high school. He was my knight in shining armor.

A year into our relationship, we lost our virginity to each other. I have no excuse other than I was in love and believed that someday we would be married.

Six months ago, John suddenly broke up with me. He said he needed his "space." After three months, he changed his mind and wanted to get back together. He swore he wanted only me and nobody else. I believed him and forgave him.

Last week, I learned that while John and I were apart, he'd had sex with another girl—an especially wild one who's had numerous lovers. I broke up with him immediately, but now I have a problem. I am experiencing some symptoms that could be an STD.

In my small town, everyone knows everyone. If I go to a local doctor, it'll be all over town before dark. It would shame my parents. I'm leaving soon to attend college several hundred miles from here. Would it be harmful to wait until I get there to see a doctor about what I'm afraid I have?

BURNED IN KENTUCKY

**DEAR BURNED:** If there is a Planned Parenthood office within driving distance of your community, contact it now. It is listed in the telephone book, and the people there will be glad to help you.

If there isn't one, call the Centers for Disease Control's national STD/AIDS hotline: (800) 227-8922. They may be able to refer you to a public clinic for a confidential evaluation. It's important that you not put this off because some STDs can lead to infertility and other problems if treatment is postponed.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 51 and still single. Recently I learned that I have a heart condition, and the doctors predict I have only five to 10 more years to live. I am in a turmoil trying to decide if it's fair to continue dating. My friends give me conflicting advice. What do you think is fair?

TO DATE OR NOT TO DATE IN OREGON

**DEAR TO DATE:** If you haven't already done so, get a second medical opinion about the prognosis. If it is valid, then I think you should live to the fullest the time the good Lord allows you. If you get serious with someone, be honest about your condition and make that decision together.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

## Courtney Love charged with attacking woman



AP

Courtney Love appears May 25, 2004, in Superior Court in Los Angeles to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count of being under the influence of a controlled substance and agree to enter a drug rehabilitation program.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Courtney Love was charged with attacking a female friend of her former managers in April with a bottle and a metal flashlight, authorities said.

The felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon stems from an April 25 incident at the Los Angeles home of former manager Jim Barber. An arrest warrant for the rocker was issued Wednesday, district attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said Tuesday.

Love was not in custody, and it was unclear whether she had been served with the warrant. She has been charged in three additional cases, including two that occurred hours apart in October.

Her attorney, Michael Rosenstein, could not be immediately reached for comment Tuesday.

Authorities said cocaine and

other opiates were found in Love's system after she was arrested for allegedly trying to break into the home of a former boyfriend in October.

Love pleaded guilty in Los Angeles Superior Court to a misdemeanor count of being under the influence of a controlled substance and agreed to enter a drug rehabilitation program in that case.

Love also faces felony charges in Beverly Hills Superior Court, where she is accused of illegally possessing prescription painkillers. She has pleaded innocent in that case and is scheduled to return to court June 17.

In May, Love was arraigned in New York City on charges of assault and reckless endangerment for allegedly hitting a fan with a microphone stand at a club on March 18.

## Spears injures knee during video shoot

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pop princess Britney Spears injured her knee during a video shoot and was hospitalized for arthroscopic surgery, her record label said Wednesday.

Spears, 22, was taken to a hospital after hurting herself late Tuesday, Jive Records said in a statement. An MRI showed floating cartilage in her knee.

The injury occurred after Spears completed outdoor scenes for the video of her new single, "Outrageous," with rapper Snoop Dogg in

the New York City borough of Queens. Spears was doing choreography when her knee gave out, Jive said.

"Outrageous" will be featured in the movie "Catwoman," due out next month.

Spears is scheduled to begin a North American tour June 22 in Hartford, Conn., according to her Web site. Her latest album, "In the Zone," was released in November.

Spears was forced to cancel two shows in March because of a knee injury.

## Taylor settles landscaper's suit

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Elizabeth Taylor has settled a lawsuit filed by her former landscaper, who accused her of firing him after he refused sexual advances from Taylor's butler.

Willem Van Muyden alleged in a lawsuit filed last year in Superior Court that he was fired without being paid \$294,000 he was owed for 10 years of gardening work.

Van Muyden, who was fired in September 2002, alleged that

Taylor dismissed him after her butler, Jean-Luc Lacquement, urged her to in retaliation for Van Muyden's sexual rejection.

The settlement was announced Tuesday. No terms were released.

Taylor's attorney, Tom Hoberman, said the settlement didn't include any money. He said a ruling on Van Muyden's legal expenses is still pending.

Calls to Van Muyden's attorney were not immediately returned Wednesday.



AP

Britney Spears performs during the second show of her 'Onyx Hotel Tour' Wednesday, March 3, 2004m at Glendale Arena in Glendale, Ariz.

## Sarah Jessica Parker in NYC fundraiser

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A drive to raise funds for public schools got a boost from "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker, who joined Caroline Kennedy and other officials in announcing plans for a huge tag sale in Central Park.

Proceeds from the Get Organized New York tag sale, scheduled for Oct. 16-17 in the park's Rumsey Playfield, will go to the nonprofit Fund for Public Schools.

"Get Organized New York is a creative initiative to help city schools," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement Tuesday. "Improving education for our 1.1 million schoolchildren is vital to our city's future."

"I encourage all New Yorkers

to take some time over the next few months gathering items from their homes and offices, and to come to Central Park in October to look for bargains and help our city schools," the mayor said.

As part of the fund-raising drive, a benefit on Oct. 13 will feature more than 250 silent auction items and 10 fantasy auction packages donated by celebrities and New York business leaders.

Bloomberg was joined in the park for the announcement by Parker, Kennedy, the chief executive officer of the Office of Strategic Partnerships, and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein.

Kennedy said funds from the event would go toward school library improvements and after-school sports programs.



AP

Caroline Kennedy, left, and Sarah Jessica Parker pose at a news conference to announce the launch of a citywide initiative to benefit New York public school children Tuesday, June 8, 2004.





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# Pastimes

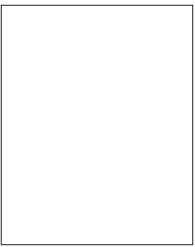
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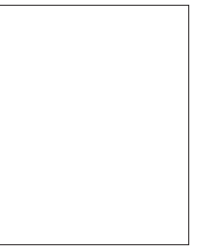




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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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